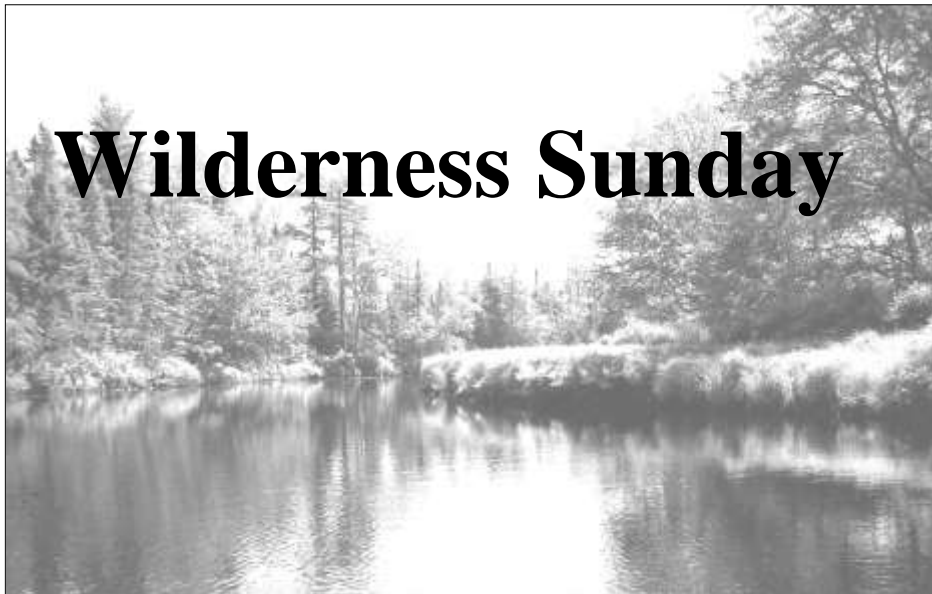


WELCOME TO...



# Wilderness Sunday

***'Let the wilderness lift up its voice'.  
Isaiah 42:11***

**The Presbyterian Church of Saint David  
Early Morning Service October 23, 2011**

Silent Preparation for Worship

Today we gather in holy presence. **We move into the wilderness of God: populated by flora and fauna, diverse as Arctic circle and Amazon basin and Sahara desert... teeming with life and seemingly lifeless.**

We lift our voice with the voice of the wilderness, wild and free, and haunting. **Grateful for the wilderness, we gather to worship God, Creator, Christ, and Spirit.**

Hymn: Pray for the wilderness **716**

Prayer of Confession:

Lord, hear our confession. **We are sorry.**

We have polluted the Canadian Shield with radioactive waste.

We have torn holes in the ozone layer.

**We have desecrated sacred sites in the wilderness.**

**We have destroyed the homes of wild creatures.**

We are sorry. **We are sorry. We are sorry.**

**Absolution** Christ hears your confession out in the wilderness and forgives your sins against the Outback.

**Christ, teach us to love Earth  
and return to Earth as our home.**

*Sung response: Lord, have mercy*

**336**

**Passing the Peace** Let us share the peace of the Lord with one another. **The peace of the Lord be with you.**

Prayer for Understanding

Scripture Readings:

**Old Testament:** Joel 1:8–10, 17–20 ‘The mourning of the wild’  
Some may assume that only humans suffer anguish when there is a disaster, whether from nature or war. Joel reminds us that at such times the ground mourns and the creatures of the wild cry out to God.

**Psalm:** Psalm 18:1–19 ‘The wild forces of creation’

The psalm writer remembers how God employed the fierce forces of creation to intervene and rescue him.

**Epistle:** Romans 8:18–27 ‘The groaning of creation’

The gospel message of this text makes it clear that not only human beings are waiting for liberation. Creation is also longing for that day, as a mother about to give birth.

**Gospel:** Mark 1:9–13 ‘Jesus in the wild of the wilderness’

When Jesus is baptized, the Spirit that fills all of Earth now fills Christ in a special way. In response Jesus retires to the wilderness to connect with creation. In Mark's version the wild animals and the angels join him.

Reflection: The sound of the wilderness

Hymn: We cannot own the sunlit sky

717

Prayer of the day (Together): **God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the rocks, the deserts and the wonderful world of the wilderness. Help us empathize with your creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the wild world of this province, celebrating the creation of our newest park encompassing Sable island with its wild winds and wild horses and wild waves. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.**

### ***Words of Institution***

Hymn: All who hunger

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***Invitation*** Come, for all things are now ready. Come to the table and share with all in need: the gift of healing for those in pain, the gift of forgiveness for those in sin, the gift of assurance for those in doubt, and the gift of hope for those in tears.

**May we who share these gifts share Christ with one another and all our kin.**

Lamb of God, who takes away all sin against God,  
**have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, who takes away all sin against Earth,  
**have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, who takes away all sin from the world,  
**receive our prayer.**

### ***Distribution***

### ***Dismissal Blessing***

Now may the power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind and your body to heal your wounds, and through you, to bring healing to Earth, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**We thank you, Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you, and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. Amen.**

*Jesus Christ, teach us to empathize with Earth. Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the hills and the trees.*

**Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit, groans from the deserts, the salt plains, the winds.**

**Jesus Christ, make our souls sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration from the sea, the land and the air. Christ, teach us to care. Amen**

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and the impulse of Christ within you. Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!

**We go in peace, serving Christ and tending Earth!**

Hymn: May the God of hope go with us

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