



**Sunday September 27th, 2020**  
**KILSYTH & KEADY- NORTH DERBY PASTORAL CHARGE**  
**Season of Creation- Wilderness/Outback Sunday**

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Pianist: Keady- North Derby- Jen Wardell

Organist: Kilsyth- Marilyn McComb

**Keady –North Derby UC**

**Mission Statement**

“To Worship and work to God’s glory”

Vision Statement: Be a community of hope, be a community who is accepting, welcoming and sharing. Share our faith story with all, especially our children and youth. Take special care of our elders.

**Kilsyth UC**

**Mission Statement**

“To open our doors to the community, young and old, so they may worship in a friendly environment, to know, love and serve God better.”

Hello and welcome to worship today.

A big thank you goes out to those in both communities who are working on the plans for reopening our buildings in order to allow us to safely come back and gather in person. Conversation continues to happen and those on the boards/councils/sub-committees are faithfully and prayerfully considering the steps and getting things set up.

**Proposed re-entry date**

Official Board met this week. Should you choose to attend; the first date that we will come together for worship in the buildings will be on **Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup>**. Keady North Derby UC will meet at 9:45 am and Kilsyth UC will meet at 11 am. Protocols will be listed on paper and sent out shortly though email or hand delivered to those who don't have access to email to let everyone know what to expect. There may be some things that we question or don't totally agree with but we need to comply and follow the Regional Council wishes, the Grey Bruce Health Unit and the Provincial guidelines as best as we

can in order to protect each other.

**Worship for Sunday October 18-** there will be no service provided by Kara for our communities due to a regional council meeting happening for parts of the week. The regional council is encouraging everyone to tune into a live streamed service from Avondale United Church in Stratford. The link for that service will be shared as the day comes closer.

**Upcoming Church meetings-**

Keady – North Derby UC Council- Tuesday October 20- 7pm

Kilsyth UC Council- Thursday November 26- 7:30 pm

Official Board- Tuesday December 1- 7pm – location- Kilsyth

**Financial** – The work of the church has continued to happen throughout the time the buildings have been closed. Even though we have not been gathering in person, there are still ongoing costs for each individual church as well as the Pastoral Charge. Please consider sharing what you can to help offset any expenses.

The treasurers would welcome your church donation (if you feel you are able) for either the General funds or the Mission and Service Fund.

Please make your cheques out to Keady- North Derby UC - c/o Betty Morrison - 137977 Conc 7, R R 5, Owen Sound, Ontario, N4K 5N7.

Or Kilsyth United Church – c/o Shirley Sprung – 217830 Con. 3 Derby Owen Sound, Ontario N4K-5N5

Alternatively you might also consider **PAR** (pre authorized remittance- automatic debit). You can be in touch with each treasurer to set this up.

Thank you so much for the many ways in which you offer support to the church and to those around you.

Many have been taking advantage of the good weather and meeting outdoors on porches, back yard patios, and driveways but as we move into cooler weather it will become more difficult for people to connect in person. Please remember to keep in touch with one another from your Community of Faith... which is your extended family.

Please pass along any announcements that you would like to have shared.

## **Order of Worship**

### **Welcome**

Hello and welcome to worship from the communities of Kilsyth and Keady-North Derby Pastoral Charge!

The Church continues to celebrate the Season of Creation this week which offers us a time to reflect on our interconnectedness with God and all of creation. We give thanks for all that we see and hear, all that has been intricately woven and shaped by God the Creator, for a purpose.

Today's service is titled Wilderness/Outback Sunday.

As you come into worship this day may you be touched by the Holy in the words spoken and songs sung.

### **Acknowledgment of the Traditional Territory**

Especially in this season as we celebrate and focus on creation, we remember the Indigenous people who have a deep spiritual connection and respect for the land and all creatures living on it. May we continue to learn from them.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional land that both church buildings sit on. We name and give thanks for those of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, which is represented by the communities of Saugeen First Nation and Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation. We also think of the Métis Nation of Ontario whose history and people are well represented in Bruce and Grey Counties.

### **Introduction/Lighting of the Candle**

We worship that which we cannot see, that which we cannot fully understand, that which is invisible but promises to be accessible to us always. Lighting the Christ candle helps to remind us of the One who came and is to come again. This is the light that draws us in and accompanies us along the path. Thanks be for this precious love that has gifted us with companionship and life.

**Call to Worship-** ([www.letallcreationpraise.org](http://www.letallcreationpraise.org))

We invite the wilderness to worship with us:

thickets and rugged terrain, deep gorges and mountain ranges.

We invite the hot sands to celebrate life:

to lift their voices to our God at the sound of rain on the dust.

We invite the flora to sing in the sun:

cactus and tumbleweed, brush and bristle.

We join with the fauna of the wilderness in praising God:

lizards and gila monsters, rattlesnakes and hovering hawks.

We invite the spirits of the wilderness to join us in praise:

songs of ancient custodians deep in the rock, spirits of life deep in the sand and the hills.

We celebrate the song of the wilderness!

Sing, wilds, sing!

**Hymn: Voices United # 231- I Sing the Mighty Power**

1 I sing the mighty power of God  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad  
and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God's command,  
and all the stars obey.

2 I sing the goodness of the One  
that filled the earth with food;  
who formed the creatures with a word  
and then pronounced them good.

O God, your wonders are displayed,  
where'er I turn my eye,  
if I survey the ground we tread  
or gaze upon the sky.

3 There's not a plant or flower below  
but makes your glories known,  
and clouds arise and tempests blow  
by order from your throne;  
while all that borrows life from you  
is ever in your care,

and everywhere that I may be,  
you, God, are present there.

Public domain- Words by Isaac Watts 1715, Music by Franz Joseph Haydn 1790

### **Opening Prayer-**

God, Creator of light, lover of the universe and all things in it, we come as pilgrims on a journey. We are in the passing through place before we reach the forever place that you promise us. As the body of Christ, help us to listen and learn how to be Christ followers. Help us to feel your presence in this worship and in our day to day lives. Move us to act and be the Way.

Stay with us, God, as we continue saying the words Jesus taught: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Scripture readings**

#### **Hebrew Scripture Reading- Joel 1: 8-10, 17-20**

<sup>8</sup>Cry, you people, like a young woman who mourns the death of the man she was going to marry.

<sup>9</sup>There is no grain or wine to offer in the Temple;  
the priests mourn because they have no offerings for the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>The fields are bare;  
the ground mourns  
because the grain is destroyed,  
the grapes are dried up,  
and the olive trees are withered.

Joel 1:17-20

Good News Translation

<sup>17</sup>The seeds die in the dry earth.

There is no grain to be stored,  
and so the empty granaries are in ruins.

<sup>18</sup>The cattle are bellowing in distress  
because there is no pasture for them;

the flocks of sheep also suffer.

<sup>19</sup> I cry out to you, LORD,  
because the pastures and trees are dried up,  
as though a fire had burned them.

<sup>20</sup> Even the wild animals cry out to you  
because the streams have become dry.

## **Epistle Scripture reading- Romans 8: 18-27**

### **The Future Glory**

<sup>18</sup> I consider that what we suffer at this present time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> All of creation waits with eager longing for God to reveal his children. <sup>20</sup> For creation was condemned to lose its purpose, not of its own will, but because God willed it to be so. Yet there was the hope <sup>21</sup> that creation itself would one day be set free from its slavery to decay and would share the glorious freedom of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that up to the present time all of creation groans with pain, like the pain of childbirth. <sup>23</sup> But it is not just creation alone which groans; we who have the Spirit as the first of God's gifts also groan within ourselves as we wait for God to make us his children and<sup>[a]</sup> set our whole being free. <sup>24</sup> For it was by hope that we were saved; but if we see what we hope for, then it is not really hope. For who of us hopes for something we see? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup> In the same way the Spirit also comes to help us, weak as we are. For we do not know how we ought to pray; the Spirit himself pleads with God for us in groans that words cannot express. <sup>27</sup> And God, who sees into our hearts, knows what the thought of the Spirit is; because the Spirit pleads with God on behalf of his people and in accordance with his will.

## **Gospel Scripture reading- Mark 1: 9-13**

### **The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus**

<sup>9</sup> Not long afterward Jesus came from Nazareth in the province of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you."

<sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit made him go into the desert, <sup>13</sup> where he stayed forty days, being tempted by Satan. Wild animals were there also, but angels came and helped him.

**Thanks be to God for these words that have been shared for generations.**

### **Reflection-**

When I think of the wilderness or outback my mind often zeros in on a reality TV show that has been very popular for the last 20 years. The game show called Survivor has seen 40 seasons of episodes. In each episode the people who qualify for the show are dropped off in a remote and isolated location in a far off country, usually somewhere in the tropics. 2 teams or tribes are set up initially. They participate in many obscure and rigorous games. People get "voted" off and eventually the numbers come down to 2 people.

For 39 days their bodies are put through incredible tests, both physically and mentally. Because it is a game of course, there is big money on the line in the end, but one of the main challenges are to be able to build fire so they can cook and keep warm if they need to or keep away any animals that might consider coming to prey on them. They are not usually given the regular items, like matches, lighters and paper that we are used to using to make fire easily. They also need to search for food and they work at the beginning to create a shelter for sleeping in that protects them from the elements.

I don't really like the show in the sense that people can become nasty towards another... everyone wants the game money in the end, but what does draw me in is the beauty and uniqueness of the landscape in the places where the game is being played. There are often shots of various animals, flora and fauna that are native to the areas.

Not many of us have had the chance to experience the wildness of the wilderness, to have to change our ways of living in order to survive.

In our day though, some still like to go into remote places. Some see it as a break from the stress, hustle and bustle of the ways of our world now. Some are fed by entering into a place of the unknown and wildness. They like the adventure and the challenge, but others are uncomfortable and anxious.

Today we think of all that has been created to live in these places. The plants and animals run and live freely and for the most part are not controlled by humans. This living wild and free is what God intended for all of life.

I wonder how filming shows or having groups of people come that are curious cause disruptions in the life that lives in these sanctuaries. God calls us to be mindful and respectful of all that lives and breathes.

Today's readings share some of the reactions of the land. Even in Joel and Paul's time, Creation groaned and moaned and there were cries for help.

We might say that creation groans still today, feeling the pain and the hurt of the world, which there is a lot of.

We don't often hear from the minor prophet Joel but he shares a similar message to those of the other prophets in the Hebrew texts. The people of Judah were experiencing calamity. They were in a time of drought. A plague of locusts had left the land wasted and was making it difficult for them to survive.

In biblical times, struggles and suffering were seen as a result of the people turning away from God.

We might see the wilderness in two ways.

Physically, in terms of the land..... especially in this season where we are focussing on the interconnectedness with all living things and our treatment of those things around us, but also we might think of the "wilderness" as a time of alienation or disconnect between us and God.

This week, I took part in an online workshop put together by The United Church Rural Ministry Network. Rural ministry can be lonely. Less and less churches have a "ministry team" so a solo minister needs to make sure they are reaching out and connecting with other



colleagues. Many of our churches within the United Church of Canada experience a great physical distance between them. Places out west, east and northern locations in Canada often have to drive at least a couple of hours to get together with another colleague or community. And this Covid time has made it even harder to see people. We have had to step up our reliance on technology. The connections that have been made through the internet have been a help, but still not the same as in person.

We long for relationship, to be able to reach out and touch another. Covid 19 has thrown us into a sort of wilderness time. Some in the workshop admitted that they were true introverts, so being stuck at home was okay with them but others were very lonely. We shared with one another of how our communities kept in touch.

Going into a wilderness time forces us though to slow down and think, ponder the bigger questions of life, to go into the deeper places that are not always comfortable for us.

Wilderness times present us with an opportunity to reconnect with the spiritual part of our beings if we dare to go there.

This is what God longs for.

Our gospel story today speaks of the time when Jesus was led alone, into the wilderness right after his baptism. This was a time of testing for him but also a time of clarity where he experienced the presence of God and began to be more aware of his purpose and how he was to move forward.

We want things to be back the way they were, to what we knew well and were comfortable with. But they aren't going to be the same. We are in a time of birthing if you will. There is newness coming out of this time of calamity and adversity that we are living in now.

Later in the book of Joel, the land was restored, new but restored.

For Jesus, he had to face a new way. Coming out of his 40 days of wandering in his time of isolation he became more focussed on what would come next. During his time there, God was with him and Jesus trusted that whatever would come, God would be there too.

There is a pattern for all of life, in all generations. Can we see it? Suffering and chaos has happened, is happening and continues to happen but what we have seen is there seems to always be some sort of restoration, some sort of rebuilding and reshaping once again. We have to believe in a presence that is near us in all the chaos and even though we can't possibly see it, that presence only has good things in mind for us. Can we live with the same kind of hope that Paul speaks of to his community in Rome so long ago?

In our time right now, we might live in the hope of a time when there will be no more Covid 19 and that we can experience more freedom to come and go and not be worried about becoming sick. Can we be patient and wait?

But even then, if we do succumb to the virus, the ultimate hope is in the believing of the promised forever world, this future glory that Paul speaks of, when the reuniting and recovery of all things will have taken place.

Can we wait with anticipation for the healing of the world and look forward to that wonderful future?

I hope so....

## **Hymn: Voices United # 266- Amazing Grace**

Musicians- Marilyn McComb and Lynda Kingwell

## **Prayers of the People-**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ARDojjURVRIYzj8EHlx4tlo9eaDo-bfh/view>

<https://seasonofcreation.org/celebration-guide/>

(adapted from A prayer for the Earth, Pope Francis, Laudato Si ( May you be praised)

We pray in thanksgiving for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted, Brother Sun whose energy radiates life, Sister Water who nurtures and revives us, and co-creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called to till and keep this garden, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain, at the expense of the poor, and the Earth. Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature and we journey towards your infinite light. Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. One In the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic, hear our cries of compassion, and heal our world and all creatures. Inspire our hearts with a holy imagination, to rise, freed from the demands to produce and consume to imagine a just, sustainable way of living, where all have enough, and all may be restored. Many enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. During this Season of Creation, grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. Amen.

### **Thanks for the gifts**

We ask God's blessing for the gifts that we have received.  
Amen.

### **Words of Blessing-**

May patience pave our path, may hope comfort our world and may love guide our lives. Go with patience, hope and love this day. Be blessed and be well.  
Amen.