

April 26th

Prelude- *The Many*

We Gather With Hope by Joanna Laws Landis

Part 1:

We gather with hope
In the presence of all who hold us.

We gather with hope
In the presence of love.

(repeat)

Part 2:

We are not alone here
We are not alone.

(repeat)

Welcome-*Eilidh*

Good morning and welcome to Vancouver 1st United Methodist Church. I'm Rev. Eilidh Lowery and joining me in worship today we have our liturgist Bethany Sutro, our music director Martin Ellis, our Choir Director Amber Tripp, and special guest musicians The Many.

The Many is a creative collective making music and curating gatherings that are pro-feminist, pro-queer, anti-racist, pro-human, and pro-love. They come together from a variety of backgrounds, denominations, and places, and their hope is that in the songs they sing and experiences they offer us, we will all be reminded we aren't alone and we all belong here, and that we'll find the courage to love others as God so desperately loves us. You can find out more about them at TheManyAreHere.com

Call to Worship- *The Many*

“Glory be to God for all the Things”

By Lenora Rand, inspired by Pied Beauty by Gerard Manley Hopkins

GABRIEL:

Will you rise in body or spirit and join us in this responsive reading?

Glory be to God for wacky things.
Weird, and wobbly and wayward and worn
and unlike-the-others things.
Freckled,
Speckled,
Huddled
Befuddled,
Audaciously unrattled things.

ALL: Glory be to God.

EBEN:

Glory be to God for slithering, sliding, swimming, hopping, running, roaring,
soaring, snoring, snorting, breaching, spouting, singing things.
Glory be to God for things that crawl up walls and push through soil
And shout to bees and call our names
That relish rain and honor sun and who bloom despite all odds.

ALL: Glory be to God.

BEN:

Glory be to God for growing things
For babies,
and beans and flowers and cucumbers and
Radishes, trees and weeds and big fat tomatoes.
And sometimes even human hearts.

Glory be to God for vines that wind and bushes aflame.
And waters that roam, rest,
Rush,
And relentlessly
Wave

ALL: Glory be to God.

KRISTINA:

Glory be to God for all of us.

For every part of us,

As we are.

Just as we are.

For the Unraveled and Undone but not-done-yet of us.

For the broken,

Bruised yet-still-here of us.

ALL: Glory be to God.

GABRIEL:

Glory be to God for

All of us.

All of us.

All of us.

And the invisible,

ineffable holy thread that holds us all

Together here.

Passing of the Peace- Bethany

Remember to greet those joining us on youtube with a wave as we take some time now to greet one another with the peace of Christ.

Opening Song *The Many (The band starts to play the song as people are still greeting as a way to call them back)*

Come as you are

BEN:

Come you who've been wounded

All you who've lost hope

Come you are longing

for what you do not know.

EBEN

Come you hungry for justice
Aching for heaven on earth
Come you who've been tossed aside
Don't remember what you're worth

Chorus

Come as you are. Come you weary.
Come and lay your burdens down
Come as you are. Bring your hopes.
Bring your doubts and your scars;
Come as you are.

KRISTINA

Come you who've been cast out
All you who've been shamed
Come you who are looking
For that mystery you can't name.

GABRIEL

Come you crying for mercy
Hoping for peace on earth
Come you carrying questions
All you who've been so hurt.

Chorus

Bridge

Oh you misfits and prophets
and you sinners and saints
Oh you broken and needy

weird and weary and faint
All who seek to simply
open their eyes
All who need to find
a safe place to cry

Chorus

Repeat Chorus

Children's Time-Eilidh & Gabriel

I'd like you all to meet Gabriel!

Gabriel (6 minutes approx.)

Hi, I'm Gabriel, pronouns he/him. And I'm a part of The Many. The Many has been writing songs and poetry and prayers and singing together for a long time – since 2015. Before many of you were born!! We do this because we want to give people fresh ways of seeing what God is like and what God is doing in the world – so people will feel closer to God and feel like they are loved... and to help us all have the courage to love others...not just our families, but everyone. Because that's what we believe God wants us to do.

Also... we try to do everything we do in as creative a way as possible because we believe God LOVES creativity. God created us ALL with imaginations and creativity, did you know that? And coming up with new ideas and trying new things can be very fun! And it can often change things for the better.

alt: do you think God was using a little creativity when God dreamed up this earth and all the creatures in it? when God made each of you?

(discuss)

we just celebrated Earth Day and we have a little chorus we wanted to teach you about creation.

k

“Loving earth as we love ourselves
All of life all creation.”

(Gabriel teaches the motions. Kids stand and sing together and do motions. Gabriel invites the kids to turn around and teach the song to the congregation. Then dismisses kids back to their seats.)

Special Music- Sanctuary Choir

Scripture Reading - Bethany

Our scripture passage today comes from the book of Psalms. This is the 104th psalm, chapters 24 through 30. This Psalm contains the first recording of the word Hallelujah in the bible. This poem shares similarities with an Egyptian song written about 400 years earlier. Regularly used in worship and an inspiration for many works since the Psalm was written, this ode to God and creation continue to inspire!

What a wildly wonderful world, God!

You made it all, with Wisdom at your side,
made earth overflow with your wonderful creations.

Oh, look—the deep, wide sea,
brimming with fish past counting,
sardines and sharks and salmon.

Ships plow those waters,
and Leviathan, your pet dragon, romps in them.

All the creatures look expectantly to you
to give them their meals on time.

You come, and they gather around;
you open your hand and they eat from it.

If you turned your back,
they'd die in a minute—

Take back your Spirit and they die,
revert to original mud;

Send out your Spirit and they spring to life—
the whole countryside in bloom and blossom.

Words of wisdom for all God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon-Eilidh

It is a wildly wonderful world
And there is so much beauty and abundance all around us
In the blossoms floating down from trees
The blooms filling our gardens
The birds singing
The bunnies snacking
The rain dripping

I wrote these words on Tuesday night
When I couldn't sleep
Awake in the middle of the night
Worried about war
Injustice
Interpersonal conflicts
Leadership conundrums
And the joyous effects of a body changing as I age
There is so much to tend
To pay attention to

We come to worship in part to be inspired and renewed
To be filled and fueled for the work of living and loving in the way of Jesus
We have been fed by the music this morning
And now we settle in
To let our hands
Our hearts
And the gift of creation balance our souls
And restore our peace

I invite you to take the piece of salt dough you were given this morning and hold it in your hands.

If you are joining us online you can make your own by combining a half cup flour, quarter cup salt, and a quarter cup of water.

Begin to mold the ball into a sphere
The shape of our earth
Circles are complete
No edges
Unbroken lines curving
Now push your fingers into the dough and notice the feeling
How the material responds to your touch
Experiment
Try pinching the dough into little mountains
Trace a deep crevasse with your thumb
Marvel at what your hands can make

Pause from experimenting now and hold the dough in both hands
And take three deep breaths
filling your lungs thoroughly,
holding your breath momentarily
and exhaling through your mouth.

Take a moment to think about nature
To rejoice in creation
What brings you joy?
What makes your heart sing?
What could you make to honor that?
If you love the garden can you sculpt a tiny plant?
If you connect to God at the beach can you capture a wave in the dough?
If you revel in the companionship of animals can you craft a cat?

Begin to create as I read again from Psalm 104,
This time in its entirety
O my soul, bless God!
God, my God, how great you are!
beautifully, gloriously robed,
Dressed up in sunshine,
and all heaven stretched out for your tent.

You built your palace on the ocean deeps,
made a chariot out of clouds and took off on wind-wings.
You commandeered winds as messengers,
appointed fire and flame as ambassadors.
You set earth on a firm foundation
so that nothing can shake it, ever.
You blanketed earth with ocean,
covered the mountains with deep waters;
Then you roared and the water ran away—
your thunder crash put it to flight.
Mountains pushed up, valleys spread out
in the places you assigned them.
You set boundaries between earth and sea;
never again will earth be flooded.
You started the springs and rivers,
sent them flowing among the hills.
All the wild animals now drink their fill,
wild donkeys quench their thirst.
Along the riverbanks the birds build nests,
ravens make their voices heard.
You water the mountains from your heavenly reservoirs;
earth is supplied with plenty of water.
You make grass grow for the livestock,
hay for the animals that plow the ground.
Oh yes, God brings grain from the land,
wine to make people happy,
Their faces glowing with health,
a people well-fed and hearty.
God's trees are well-watered—
the Lebanon cedars he planted.
Birds build their nests in those trees;
look—the stork at home in the treetop.
Mountain goats climb about the cliffs;
badgers burrow among the rocks.
The moon keeps track of the seasons,
the sun is in charge of each day.
When it's dark and night takes over,
all the forest creatures come out.

The young lions roar for their prey,
clamoring to God for their supper.
When the sun comes up, they vanish,
lazily stretched out in their dens.
Meanwhile, people go out to work,
busy at their jobs until evening.
What a wildly wonderful world, GOD!
You made it all, with Wisdom at your side,
made earth overflow with your wonderful creations.
Oh, look—the deep, wide sea,
brimming with fish past counting,
sardines and sharks and salmon.
Ships plow those waters,
and Leviathan, your pet dragon, romps in them.
All the creatures look expectantly to you
to give them their meals on time.
You come, and they gather around;
you open your hand and they eat from it.
If you turned your back,
they'd die in a minute—
Take back your Spirit and they die,
revert to original mud;
Send out your Spirit and they spring to life—
the whole countryside in bloom and blossom.
The glory of GOD—let it last forever!
Let GOD enjoy creation!
God takes one look at earth and triggers an earthquake,
points a finger at the mountains, and volcanoes erupt.
Oh, let me sing to GOD all my life long,
sing hymns to my God as long as I live!
Oh, let my song please God;
I'm so pleased to be singing to GOD.
O my soul, bless GOD!

Please place your completed creations on the cardboard to dry.
We will collect them in the narthex after the service on the cart there.
What did you make?

What was that experience like?

(Many come up)

May you know the joy of God in nature

And may this steady you and ready you for a life of love lived out loud.

Amen

Prayer Song-The Many

Lovely, Needy People

Verse 1 - Kristina

KRISTINA

Oh you prisoners in your cells

All you in private hells

Kyrie eleison

–Slide–

All you hungry and ignored

Who thirst for something more

Kyrie eleison

–Slide–

You who feel lost but are afraid of being found

–Slide–

You who are in chains but are afraid to live unbound

Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison.

–Slide–

Chorus

For all us lovely needy people

Living in this world

–Slide–

that's spinning
Round and round and
round and round
Round and round and round
–Slide–

For all us lovely broken people
Living in this world

–Slide–
that's spinning
Round and round and
round and round
Round and round and round

–Slide–
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy
Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison

–Slide–

Verse 2

EBEN - eben

Oh you children ripped and torn
Battered, bruised and worn
Kyrie eleison

–Slide–

All who look hate in the face
Locked in hate's embrace
Kyrie eleison

–Slide–

You who've given up and can't see anywhere but down

–Slide–

You who've lost all hope and think it's nowhere to be found

Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison

–Slide–

Chorus

For all us lovely needy people

Living in this world

–Slide–

that's spinning

Round and round and

round and round

Round and round and round

–Slide–

For all us lovely broken people

Living in this world

that's spinning

Round and round and

round and round

Round and round and round

–Slide–

Lord have mercy,

Christ have mercy

Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison

–Slide–

Nathan Cello solo (chant 2x)

Chant

There is mercy enough,

there is grace enough

There is love enough for all of us

Prayers of the People- Bethany

Please be seated.

We join now in prayer with words adapted from Carol Penner

Lord you give life to life!

From day one, your Spirit brooding over the deep, your wind rushing, your breath filling.

As creatures of the earth we rejoice in life using our breath, our being to raise this hymn of praise:

Hallelujah to the sun's hot passion embracing the ground's great shoulders.

Hallelujahs for the growth from seed to plant greening the earth; its fruit—beauty and food!

Hallelujahs for generations of life tumbling one after another.

Life creeping, swimming, flying, running, below, above, upon, within.

All the world sings, calls, signals, speaks

praise to God whose glory grows in all that breathes! (pause)

Knowing your power, knowing your love for us, we bring requests this morning; we pray for those who are entering in to times of transition, give these people wisdom and steadfastness and above all, love, as they step into something new and leave other things behind. (pause)

We pray for all we know who are sick, in mind or body, or who suffer from chronic conditions, All who are in need of your comfort. (pause)

We long for reconciliation with those we have harmed with harsh words or harsh actions, and for peace among our warring nations. God we bring to you this day our pleas for the people of Iran, Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan, Myanmar, Cuba, and Venezuela, may your love and peace overflow. (pause)

Fill us, enliven us, to be ambassadors of life abundant,
breathing out your song in harmony,
singing to you, our Creator,
whose glory shines through all the world as we lift to you the deep prayers of our
hearts in a time of silence (pause for a slow count of 60)

God you created us to create with you a world shaped in the way of Jesus, who
taught us to pray

**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;
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen**

Offering Invitation- Bethany

Please remember to fill out the attendance sheet.

Will the ushers please come forward to receive our joyful tithes and offerings?

Offering/Special Music Sanctuary Choir

Doxology UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ,
whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication-Eilidh

Please be seated as we dedicate our gifts to God.

God may these gifts be instruments of your creative justice and love in the world.
Amen

Life of the Church-Eilidh

(Announcements)

Closing Song *The Many*

Love Wins

by Kate Hurley Krause

1.

Sometimes it feels as if the world Is tumbling to the ground
So much trouble
without and within

–Slide–

But we learn from the ones
Who turned empires upside down
And remember love wins

–Slide–

2.

Let's breathe here together,
a collective breath
Take my hand and we'll
find hope again

–Slide–

All we can do is take the
next right step
And remember love wins

–Slide–

Chorus

Love is what will
be here in the end,
and Love is with us now
We're gonna turn our
weapons into plows

–Slide–

And remember
we're in this together
ooh, love wins

–Slide–

3.

If the world keeps crumbling
We'll create a new place
With no conditions
where all are welcome in

–Slide–

Instead of building walls,
let's build a home that's safe
And believe that love wins

–Slide–

Chorus

Love is what will
be here in the end,
and Love is with us now

We're gonna turn our
weapons into plows

–Slide–

And remember we're in this together. ooh, love wins

–Slide–

Chorus

Love is what will
be here in the end,
and Love is with us now
We're gonna turn our
weapons into plows

–Slide–

And remember we're in this together

–Slide–

“Oh oh, love wins.” (repeat)

Benediction-*Eilidh*

We go out ready for what God is unfolding in our lives using words adapted from
reworship

Go from this place with joy,
giving thanks to God,
proclaiming goodness,
celebrating love,
thereby bringing about a world that fulfills God's dream for all people.

For God is with us in beauty and song,
Even as we worry and wonder in this conflicted age.
May the blessing of holy imagination
Fill the sacred work of art that is your life
For hope is resistance
And cocreation is always an act of solidarity with God's way
Amen

Postlude- *The Many* **We are on this earth to love**