

THE INVENTIONS OF SUMMER
SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES
Week 1: SUNFLOWERS – Pronouncing a Blessing

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There is no end, believe me! to the inventions of summer.....
Mary Oliver ~ The Roses

PRELUDE

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY

We gather today on lands that have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. We acknowledge with gratitude the traditional stewards of this land and honour their enduring relationship with the earth, waters, and all living beings.

As people of faith, we remember that reconciliation is more than words. It is a path of listening, learning, and walking together in justice and respect.

May our worship today deepen our commitment to right relationships with Indigenous peoples, with one another, and with the Creator who holds all creation in love.

WE SING: VU 232 “Joyful Joyful We Adore You”

**Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

**All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.**

**You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.**

**Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.**

Words: Henry van Dyke 1907. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven 1824. Adapted by Edward Hodges.
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WORDS OF WELCOME

INVITATION TO GATHER

**In this season of long light and growing things,
we gather in the presence of the Holy.
We come to notice, to listen, to pray.
In the quiet work of creation, God is near
in what delights us,
and in what troubles us.
God meets us here, in the ordinary.
In turning toward the light, creation teaches us praise.
(*Light Christ candle.*)
We open our hearts,
to wonder, to wisdom, to the Spirit's gentle leading.
So we worship.**

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

**Maker of all that grows and breathes,
we come to you
in the beauty, the abundance,
and even in the disturbances of life.
Open us to your presence in the ordinary.
Open our hearts to receive what the moment teaches.
Open our lives to be a blessing in the world.
In this time, may sunflowers teach us your way,
the way of praise,
the way of gratitude,
the way of compassion,
the way of faithful prayer.
We come in wonder, honesty, and hope. Amen.**

WE SING: MV 27 “Creator God, You Give Us Life”

**Creator God you gave us life,
your image formed within our souls,
yet through the mist of time and space,
we search for that which makes us whole.**

Refrain

**Through hands that paint majestic skies,
and voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery.**

**In ev’ry flow’r and ev’ry tree,
we see your great diversity,
yet greater still we see your love,
expressed in our humanity. *[refrain]***

**When with our hearts, our hands our minds,
we share our gifts with all the world,
our spirits soar beyond the veil,
to touch the very face of God. *[refrain]***

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SACRED READING Psalm 113 (The Message)

WE SING: VU 835 (v1) Praise to the Lord *remain seated

**Praise to the Lord,
all of you, God’s servants.
Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.
From the rising up of the sun
may the Lord be praised, praise the name of the Lord!**

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THE SPIRIT SPEAKS THROUGH POETRY

The Sunflowers by Mary Oliver

REFLECTION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God makes a way through the work of building communities of belonging by the act of shared generosity. Our offerings support ministries that nurture spiritual life, strengthen relationships, and support our neighbours. We are reminded of all the ways we give of ourselves.

GIFT OF MUSIC

Malcolm Bradley

GIVING THANKS VU541 "Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow"

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Words: Thomas Ken ca. 1674. Music: Genevan Psalter 1551. Public Domain

PRAYER OF DEDICATIONⁱ

**Our selves, our actions, our words, our mission, and our souls – we dedicate them all to you,
O God, as we answer your call. Bless us and our gifts for your service that we may declare
our faith by our cheerful giving back. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | PRAYER OF JESUS

WE SING: VU 556 "Would You Bless Our Homes and Families"

**Would you bless our homes and families,
Source of life who calls us here;
in our world of stress and tension
teach us love that conquers fear.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles,
love's expressed in many ways.**

**When our way is undemanding,
let us use the time that's ours
to delight in simple pleasures,
sharing joys in gentle hours.
When our way is anxious walking
and a heavy path we plod,
teach us trust in one another
and in you, our gracious God.**

**From the homes in which we're nurtured,
with the love that shapes us there,
teach us, God, to claim as family
every one whose life we share.
And through all that life may offer,
may we in your love remain;
may the love we share in families
be alive to praise your name.**

**Let us reach beyond the boundaries
of our daily thought and care
till the family you have chosen
spills its love out everywhere.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;**

**teach us when we face our troubles
love's expressed in many ways.**

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CLOSING BLESSING OF PRAISE

As we go from this place,
may we turn, again and again, toward the light.

**May our life become a quiet song of praise,
not only in words,
but in the way we notice,
the way we bless,
the way we live. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

ⁱ Gord Dunbar, Kincardine, Ont., GatheringWorship.ca, Pentecost 1 2026 Year A.