

# YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY MAY 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019



SHINING WATERS  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
The United Church of Canada

**SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL  
YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE  
Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Opening Hymn** – God of the Bible, Fresh as the Morning, MV 28

**Prayer – The Prayer for The Creation of Something New**

Creator,  
You have welcomed the:  
Spring, Warmth, Community and new life.  
We come to this council with:  
Worry of differences, uncertainty of new structure, loneliness, fear of change.  
But with all we bring, we give thanks for:  
New beginnings, familiarity and comfort, fresh starts, your love, because we  
know we are not alone.  
Welcome us and all that we come with.  
So we may find peace. Amen

**Song** – Like A Healing Stream, MV 14

**Scripture Passage**

**Jeremiah 18: 1 – 8**

***At the Potter's House***

**18** This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the CREATOR: <sup>2</sup>“Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” <sup>3</sup>So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. <sup>4</sup>But the vessel he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter remade it into another vessel, shaping it as seemed best to the potter.

<sup>5</sup> Then the word of God came to me. <sup>6</sup>The Creator said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the CREATOR. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. <sup>7</sup>If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, changed and developed, <sup>8</sup>and if that nation is penitent, then I will work with that nation and kingdom to build something new.

**Play** - ‘The Start of Something’

“Oh Sacred World, now wounded  
we pledge to make you free  
of hate, of war, of selfish cruelty.  
And here in our small corner, we plant a tiny tree.  
And it will grow, in beauty, to shame the face of greed.”  
-Pete Seeger

Characters

The Potter  
The Apprentice

Potter.           How long have you been standing there?

Apprentice.      Just long enough.

Potter.           Yes, of course you have been.

Apprentice.      What are you creating now?

Potter.           Just a little something.

Apprentice.      Like the others?

Potter.           No. This one will be different.

Apprentice.      You say that every time. And every time you find yourself getting so frustrated that you re-start about twenty times, and every time you say the same thing.

Potter.           If you're so smart, what do I say every time?

Apprentice.      'Well, it's good enough to hold water.' What does that even mean? Why does it have to be good enough to hold water?

Potter.           You'll see.

Apprentice.      I've been apprenticing under you now for two years. When do I get to make my own, whatever that is? What do you call it?

Potter.           A world.

Apprentice.      Yes, a world. I still don't understand what that means. I mean, look at this one.

Potter.           Be careful!

Apprentice.      What would happen if I just. (*Pretends to drop it.*)

Potter.           My dear one, that is why you are still but an apprentice. You are not ready yet.

Apprentice. I can make the most beautiful plates. I've seen your attempt at plates, you can't make a plate that would hold a tiny pea let alone a slab of beef. You just keep making these world things. They aren't doing anything, you know.

Potter. Aren't they?

Apprentice. No.

Potter. The one you have in your hand is working on learning how to get along.

Apprentice. With what? The other worlds on this shelf?

Potter. Not at all my friend but with itself.

Apprentice. That makes no sense, you realize that don't you? This particular one you took forever to make. You spent hours on each contour. You kept saying, maybe this. And then smash! You'd just re-start.

Potter. Anything worth making doesn't just happen. It takes time.

Apprentice. But hours? I mean really. You didn't get this area right, it looks like a little blip.

Potter. Or is it the largest mountain you've ever seen?

Apprentice. I think you've spent far too much time out here alone, I mean really, a mountain? Go outside, you'll see a mountain. Look to the west of you. A mountain, no this, this here, is a blemish.

Potter. My dear, you are still learning.

Apprentice. And what about this. It looks like a crack. Is that what happened during your drying process? You didn't even try to fix it. You'll never sell this one.

Potter. I don't want to sell it.

Apprentice. Not sell it? How are you going to keep on making these worlds? You're just hoping they'll come out of thin air?

Potter. I never said that.

Apprentice. I've never seen anyone here in your shop. No one wants a cracked world.

Potter. You're right, they probably don't. But I do.

Apprentice. Huh?

Potter. I want my cracked world. That world you hold in your hands has had an amazing journey, and it's only just beginning. If it is careful.

Apprentice. You've got to stop smelling these fumes. Get outside, get some fresh air.

Potter. Look closer my dear apprentice. What do you see?

Apprentice. Ok. Fine. (Examines closer) Wow.

Potter. Yes?

Apprentice. I see it. But look here. This is changing rapidly.

Potter. What is?

Apprentice. The blue stuff, it's becoming like....

Potter. Ahh yes. You see, my dear apprentice, that is the water.

Apprentice. It doesn't look like water. It looks more like, well, I don't know, well, green... sludge.

Potter. They aren't being too careful with their water.

Apprentice. Who isn't careful with their water?

Potter. The people.

Apprentice. There's no people on this thing.

Potter. Look closer.

Apprentice. My nose is almost touching the ball now.

Potter. Closer.

Apprentice. I see it trees. Well, what used to be trees. They look more like stumps, with rings in them.

Potter. Can you count the rings?

Apprentice. Do you have a million years?

Potter. I have all the time in the world.

Apprentice. Anyway. They are just disappearing.

Potter. Quite something, isn't it?

Apprentice. Don't they know they need those trees to live?

Potter. They'll learn soon. I hope.

Apprentice. They've turned the water into sludge and the trees are gone. But I still see no people.

Potter. Closer still.

Apprentice. Pretty soon this world of yours will be right inside my eyeball.

Potter. Closer.

Apprentice. There they are!

Potter. Yes?

Apprentice. They are on two sides of a hill. They don't look happy.

Potter. They aren't.

Apprentice. Are they going into battle?

Potter. Yes, you see it too?

Apprentice. HEY! PEOPLE! HEY! STOP THAT! DON'T DO THAT!

Potter. They won't listen to you.

Apprentice. You have to do something.

Potter. I tried. Earlier today.

Apprentice. Come on. You've got to try something.

Potter. There isn't much that I can do. It's their choice.

Apprentice. You made them. Unmake them! Stop what they are doing to each other now!

Potter. I cannot. For you see, they are free to be who they are, once the clay is dry.

Apprentice. That's not true. Once the clay is dry doesn't mean that they are free to do what they want.

Potter. Oh no?

Apprentice. You can always wet the clay again.

Potter. But what about once the clay has been fired.

Apprentice. When did you fire this?

Potter. Just last night. I thought it was ready. It wasn't. That's the story of creating.

Apprentice. Sometimes you don't make any sense.

Potter. Hear me out, my apprentice, you can create and create. You can build up a lifetime of creations. Just look at this wall. Each one its own special creation. That one, I loved the colour of green in this one, but sadly those people are still learning what it means to love. That one I wanted it to be filled with swirls of beautiful colours and yet those people see their sky as a dull grey. That one I made it a deep purple and yet there is nothing royal about the way they treat each other in that world. And yet, each one is their own. Artists don't create because they need to, they create because they have to.

Apprentice. I need to eat.

Potter. Then you should have picked another profession. I think the butcher is still looking for an apprentice.

Apprentice. I don't want to be a butcher.

Potter. Then what brings you here? Why did you choose my doorstep?

Apprentice. I liked the idea of making something new everyday.

Potter. And yet, you've seen it can take weeks to make something right.

Apprentice. A few times it's taken you years.

Potter. Oh yes, that world over there. The one in the far corner. It still isn't done.

Apprentice. When will it be done?

Potter. I don't know. I sometimes go over to check on it. It still needs something more. But I'm just not sure what.

Apprentice. How do you know when a world is done?

Potter. It will just tell you.

Apprentice. You make it sound so easy, you know.

Potter. It can be. But when something seems so easy, it's because it took a lot of time to get to there.

### **Song - Bruno Mars – 'Count on Me'**

#### **Prayer – The Creator's Prayer**

Creator God, we hear you in the whispers of the trees.  
We wait for inspiration in quiet moments, and in sharing we find out more about ourselves.

On the first day God gave us light. We seek light in the darkness, the light that has shone on these beauties also shines on our injustices.

On the second day he made the atmosphere. We grieve the deforestation of trees that gives us clean oxygen to breathe.

On the third day she crafted the ground and plants. The land we live and grow on is a beautiful creation of God's. Yet the fruit it bears, we selfishly consume.

On the fourth day God made the Sun, moon, and stars. We grieve that we cannot see the sun, moon, and stars because of the pollution in our atmosphere.

On the fifth day they created birds and sea animals. The pollution in our lakes and oceans is harming sea life. Our consumerism is killing the populations of fish and sea life. Birds are losing their habitats due to the loss of forests through forest fires and deforestation.

On the sixth day land animals and humans appeared. Everything we create has its impacts not only on the wildlife, but ourselves, our health, and the generations to come.

On the last day God rested. We leave no room to rest for the future generations because they will have to stress over fixing the mistakes we have made. We are finally beginning our path towards change. Hopefully, if all of us unite to create a cleaner world, one day we can rest. But now is not the time. We can't rely on future generations,



because we create their future. We have eleven years before the affects of global warming will be irreversible. So no, now is not the time to rest.

God has gifted us everything beautiful on this planet. Through the light, the atmosphere, the ground, the plants, the sky, and the animals, we feel God's goodness in my presence. But through clouds of smoke, sewage and plastic, we can feel the presence of the reaper beside us.

God you have inspired us to help in this movement towards a cleaner world. This is your world, this our world, this is the world to many. Let's remember Jesus's teaching to love our neighbours. Therefore, we love and respect the sky, the ground, the trees and all of God's creations. For they are our neighbours and our providers. We can not live without them. Amen.

**Song – It's a Song of Praise to the Maker, MV 30**

**Prayer – The Creation of Something New**

Dear God,

Thank you for bringing us together this weekend.

We pray that we have done good work and that we will keep these new bonds that we have created and with these bonds we will do good things. We ask you to help us in using the things we have learned this weekend in our daily lives. Amen