

Shining Waters Regional Council Annual Affirming Ministries Service

Welcome

Shawn Redden, Justice & Faith Formation Minister

This service is our Regional Council's celebration of and continuing commitment to being an affirming ministry

Shining Waters Regional Council became an Affirming Ministry on March 14, 2021.

Each year since we've held a service either online or in-person hosted at a Community of Faith

This year, we've decided to mark this online as part of our AGM.

As we come into worship let's live into that question... how will we as an Affirming Regional Council make this a living apology as we recommit to this work of hope, equity and justice?

Gathering Invitation & Candle lighting ¹

Video: Ael Spence and Rev. Brad Inglis

One: *In words of the poet:*

'Beloveds

We are heirs of a theology that says

LOVE is love

The soul is not gendered

Covenants live in hearts' *

Faith welcomes all.

All: **Created in the Divine image, we come**

We light the RED candle. It symbolizes life—the blood that flows through all of us. (*Pause as the candle is lit.*)

Our shared lifeblood unites us as one people, one humanity,

embracing every race, every belief, every identity, and every love.

We light the ORANGE candle—a flame of healing. (*Pause as the candle is lit.*)

We remember that we are never alone, in either our joys or our struggles.

Where there is hatred, be peace.

Where there is hurt, give compassion.

Where there is regret, offer grace.

Where there is sorrow, bring healing.

We light the YELLOW candle—a symbol of courage and openness. (*Pause as the candle is lit.*)

Let your light shine brightly, a flame that can never be extinguished.

May we nurture this light in others and live with authenticity and truth.

We light the GREEN candle - the greening power of Creator. (*Pause as the candle is lit.*)

We proclaim compassion for all creatures and affirm our place in God's good creation.

We light the BLUE candle - the colour of imagination, wide open spaces, sea and sky. (*Pause as candle is lit.*)

We affirm anything is possible with vision and enduring commitment.

We light the PURPLE candle—for spirit, dignity, and strength in community. (*Pause as the candle is lit.*)

We are created for relationship, cherished and celebrated in God's love.

Together, we give thanks for the courage to boldly live our faith out loud.

¹ Candle lighting liturgy inspired by adaptations from rainbow candle liturgies from Affirm United and Metropolitan United Church. Written by Shawn Redden, October 2025.

* 'Beacons' by Kimi Floyd Reisch. <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/affirmation/beacons> accessed 16/10/2025

We light the CHRIST candle. (Pause as the candle is lit.)

One: Jesus gathers us as community,
and we celebrate that each one here
reflects the infinite diversity
of Love's Divine Presence.

All: **Created in the Divine image, we come**

Song MV 62 There is Room for All (Chacun a sa place) (vs. 1 English; v2 French)

Words and Music: Bruce Harding, 2004. French trans. David Fines, 2006. ©2004 Bruce Harding

Vocals: Belle Cao, Chris Kovarik; Musician/Audio mixing: Chris Kovarik

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Prayer (unison)

Credit: Shining Waters Pride Prayer prepared for Toronto Pride June 2021

Creator,
Each and every human identity
bears your sacred image.
Inspire us
to fully live
the power of this truth
every day.
Amen, Amen.
May it be so.

Scripture Genesis 1 (selected verses)

Reader: Erin Park, Good Tree Korean United Church

Genesis 1 (selected verses)

¹ When God began to create^[a] the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^[b] swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness, Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together, Seas. And God saw that it was good.

^{26a} Then God said, “Let us make humans^[c] in our image, according to our likeness... ²⁷ So God created humans^[d] in their image, in the image of God they created them;^[e] male and female they created them.

³¹ God saw every created thing, and indeed, it was very good.

Reflection Sanctuary

Scripture Reflection Shawn Redden

Reflection & Video Story Intro Rev. Jeffrey Dale

Video – College Street United “Love is Greater than Fear” (TLUS#97 When I can't take the first step)

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Celebration of Affirming Ministries Video

Music: TLUS#31 Queerly Beloved

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Affirmation and Commitments / Déclaration et engagements

Reader: Rev. John Joseph Mastandrea

Credit: Rev. Dr. Miriam Spies, Apology to 2S and LGBTQIA+ Communities Service, August 8, 2025. General Council 45

<p>As a church, we affirm that we and all of Creation are created in God's utter loveliness, that God delights in our bodies.</p>	<p>En tant qu'Église, nous déclarons que nous, et l'ensemble de la Création, sommes créés à l'image de Dieu et que Dieu se réjouit de nos corps.</p>
<p>Response: You are my beloved. Or</p>	<p>Response: You are my beloved. Or</p>
<p>Tu es mon enfant bien-aimé.</p>	<p>Tu es mon enfant bien-aimé.</p>
<p>We affirm that the call of baptism is the foundation to all calls to discipleship and ministry.</p>	<p>Nous déclarons que l'appel au baptême est le pilier de tous les appels à l'engagement chrétien et au ministère.</p>
<p>Response: You are my beloved. Or</p>	<p>Response: You are my beloved. Or</p>
<p>Tu es mon enfant bien-aimé.</p>	<p>Tu es mon enfant bien-aimé.</p>
<p>We will work to counter harm toward 2S and LGBTQIA+ siblings</p>	<p>Nous lutterons contre le mal fait à nos soeurs et frères bispirituels et LGBTQIA+.</p>
<p>Response: You are my beloved. Or</p>	<p>Response: You are my beloved. Or</p>
<p>Tu es mon enfant bien-aimé.</p>	<p>Tu es mon enfant bien-aimé.</p>
<p>We will affirm and support the leadership of all God's people.</p>	<p>Nous affirmerons et soutiendrons le leadership de tout le peuple de Dieu.</p>
<p>Response: You are my beloved. Or</p>	<p>Response: You are my beloved. Or</p>
<p>Tu es mon enfant bien-aimé.</p>	<p>Tu es mon enfant bien-aimé.</p>
<p>We will continue to celebrate the beauty and diversity of God's dream for justice and joy.</p>	<p>Nous continuerons de célébrer la beauté et la diversité du rêve de Dieu pour la justice et la joie.</p>
<p>Response:</p>	<p>Response:</p>
<p>You are my beloved. Or</p>	<p>You are my beloved. Or</p>
<p>Tu es mon enfant bien-aimé.</p>	<p>Tu es mon enfant bien-aimé.</p>

Song

TLUS 30 We're the light of all the world (We Are a Rainbow)

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