



Creation Care Ministry *Sunday Walk*

Trinity Church in the City of Boston

Thursday, March 27, 2022

2:00 pm

Powisset Farm • Dover, Massachusetts

Station One: To Begin

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe.

Your word brings on the dusk of evening.

Your wisdom creates both night and day.

You determine the cycles of time.

You arrange the succession of seasons and establish the stars in their heavenly courses.

The Lord of hosts is your name.

Living and eternal God, rule over us always.

Blessed be the Lord, whose word makes evening fall.

Creator of the cosmos, of eternity and time:

Be with us in this time.

Savior of the world, healer of the nations:

Be with us in this place.

Breath of all that lives, of people near and far

Stir within our lives.

Maker-Spirit-Son God of here and now:

Be present in our lives, that we may find new ways to be present in your world.

- From the Iona Community

God of unchangeable power,
When you fashioned the world
the morning stars sang together
And the host of heaven shouted for joy;
open our eyes to the wonders of creation
and teach us to use all things for good,
to the honor of your glorious name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (p. 569)

“Walking and Talking”

...Often when we walk, we are already talking to someone next to us, or thinking of what we have to do next, or even staring at our phone, not looking at where we are going. When you walk, try to just walk. Try not to walk and talk at the same time. If you need to say something, stop altogether, and say it. It won't take too much more time. Then, after you finish talking, you can resume walking...

- Thich Nhat Hahn, *How to Walk* (Berkeley: Parallax Press, 2015) p. 50



Station Two: Before We Were Here

A Prayer of Land Acknowledgement

(for Massachusetts Diocesan Convention, November 7, 2021)

O Gracious and Loving Creator,
you shaped our wide world round.
You placed us in relation to all creation –
the wind, the woods and waters were all shaped by your hands.
Today we acknowledge and remember those sacred people who cared for this land –
among them, the Massachuset, the Narraganset, the Nauset, the Niantic and the
Wampanoag.
Although their lands and children were stolen
And some of their many traditions and lives are gone,
their spirits bless and teach us still,
and their scattered descendants have gifts to share.
May we be people who listen to their teaching today.
Amen.

- Bishop Carol Gallagher



Station Three: Vernal Pools

...Vernal pools are seasonal depressional wetlands that occur under the Mediterranean climate conditions of the West Coast and in glaciated areas of northeastern and midwestern states. They are covered by shallow water for variable periods from winter to spring but may be completely dry for most of the summer and fall. These wetlands range in size from small puddles to shallow lakes and are usually found in a gently sloping plain of grassland...

Climatic changes associated with each season cause dramatic changes in the appearance of vernal pools. The pools collect water during winter and spring rains, changing in volume in response to varying weather patterns. In the spring, wildflowers often bloom in brilliant circles of color that follow the receding shoreline of the pools. By early summer, the water has evaporated, and the clay pools appear brown, barren, and cracked.

However, appearances may be deceiving. The unique environment of vernal pools provides habitat for numerous rare plants and animals that are able to survive and thrive in these harsh conditions. Many of these plants and animals spend the dry season as seeds, eggs, or cysts, and then grow and reproduce when the ponds are again filled with water. In addition, birds such as egrets, ducks, and hawks use vernal pools as a seasonal source of food and water.

- <https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/vernal-pools>

For reflection: In what season do you find yourself now in your own life with God? What are the “signs” of this season and what might signal change?



Station Four: Knoll

Knolls or “hillocks” are among the smallest forms of geographical elevation. They are formed by glacial deposit or may consist of remaining and denser “core” material remaining after other components of an elevation have worn away over time. While here on the knoll trail extension, choose something to look at for at least one minute.



Station Five: Sheltering Tree

"The Sheltering Tree" (Black Elk's prayer)

Hey! Learn to hear my feeble voice.
At the center of the sacred hoop
You have said that I should make the tree to bloom.
With tears running, O Great Spirit, my Grandfather,
With running eyes I must say
The tree has never bloomed
Here I stand, and the tree is withered.
Again, I recall the great vision you gave me.
It may be that some little root of the sacred tree still lives.
Nourish it then
That it may leaf
And bloom
And fill with singing birds!
Hear me, that the people may once again
Find the good road
And the shielding tree.



Station 6: Taking Leave

Creator God, out of the overflowing of you love you created all things with rich variety and great beauty, and entrusted us with responsibility for them; grant that we might so value all that you have given into our care that we may sustain its blessings for all people for all time; through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**