



David's Dialogue

My mouth will speak your praise, YHWH, and may all creation bless your holy Name forever and ever!
Psalms 145:21

I have always had an interest in poetry. Reading and sometimes writing poetry is one of the things I do to nourish my soul. I sometimes find myself wondering, how come it touches my heart in the special way it does? It is not an easy thing to define or explain.

Poetry has a lot in common with prayer. They are, for starters, both six-letter words that begin with 'P'. But there is more to it than that. Like poetry, prayer is hard to define. We don't really know how it works, either. But we do it, nonetheless. Someone once asked C.S. Lewis, why do you pray if it can't change God. C.S. Lewis replied, "I pray because it changes me." Prayer and poetry can both change us.

There are many examples of poetry in the Bible. Sometimes, as in the psalms, poetry and prayer converge and become one. Many Christians have found great comfort in writing prayers out in the form of poetry.

Poetry not only opens doors in our minds but, you might also say, it creates new rooms. The word "poem" comes from a Greek word which means to make. Poetry makes things. It joins God in the work of creation.

On the next page is a poem that I wrote. It is an acrostic poem which means that there is message you can read down the left column as well as across the page. The first letter of each line spells COCREATE. Each line is the theme of a sermon: Country, Outcast, Courage, Resistance, Enmity, Agony, Truth and Empowerment. I hope the poem will create some of the space we need to enjoy God's relationship with us and grow into it, through the Bible, through poetry, and through worship together as we gather together over the summer.

COCREATE *By Rev David*

Country promised to us long ago
Outcasts now, we'll make a better land
Courage friends, we have a way to go
Resist despair and fearful threats withstand
Enmity can't over love prevail
Agony can't rob us of delight
Truth, our shepherd through the darkest vale
Empowered in prayer, the weak reveal their might.

Amen and thanks be to God.

Peace Like a River,

Rev. David Kim-Cragg ᐱᕈᕋᕐᓂᕐᓴᕐᓴ wahkohtowin;
Minister at St. Matthew's United Church (he/him)

Help Us Support These Two Programs

From now until late August, we'll have a box in the narthex for your donations. You'll be supporting kids who need school supplies, lunch bags, and back packs. The program for women provides them, with a purse filled with basic supplies.

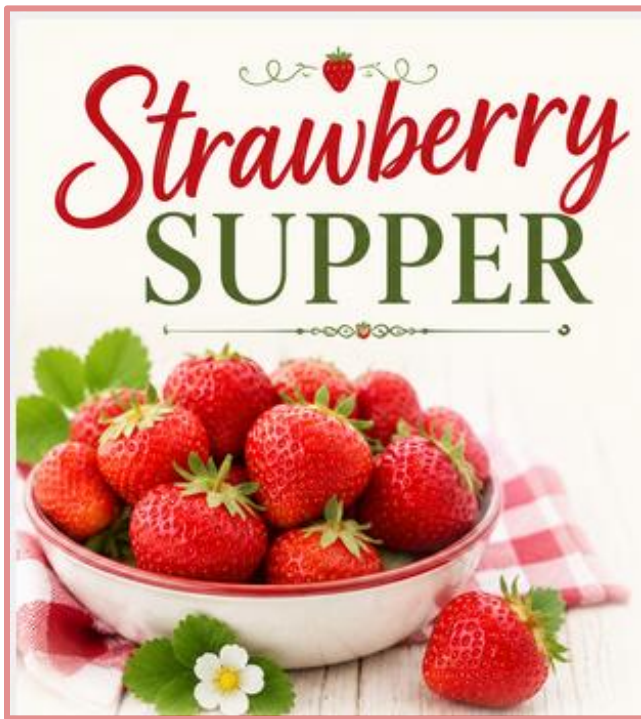
Thank you
for your support.



Missed a service?

Find the ones you want to watch [USING THIS LINK.](#)

- ❖ June 28. Rev. David has started the first of many special services for the summer, titled “Poetry in the Bible.” We started with acrostic poems that can be found in the Bible. After the service we held our Annual “June Congregational meeting”. At this meeting, the main agenda item was to update the names of those who are on each committee and to source additional people if needed to help out by joining a committee. Coffee and tea followed.
- ❖ July 05 to Aug. 16 plus Aug. 30. Rev. David continues the “Poetry in the Bible” series.
- ❖ Aug 23. Monique Romero will lead this service.



The Dinner We All Looked Forward To

Everyone seemed to be having a good time chatting with friends and catching on all the latest news. And of course, the food was great. Choices included mains of roast beef and ham, salads that included potato salad, coleslaw, carrot salad, and bean salad. There was also bread rolls, and beverages including coffee and tea. Dessert was white cake topped with vanilla ice cream and strawberries! Yum. Yum.

We welcomed about 60 folks to the dinner and it seems everyone enjoyed the food and the time to chat with others. We thank Bill Hurdman for all his

work to put on this delightful meal. Thanks as well to his

helpers including Grace, and Bertha as well as those who prepped the strawberries and served the dessert.

The event photos were taken by Doreen Coyne.



Qingjun and Zixuan Helping Trim the Church Greenery

This summer, my two children, Qingjun Zhou and Zixuan Zhou, did something truly meaningful through their own actions. Noticing that the greenery on one side of the church had overgrown with weeds and a small tree had become a bit untidy, they volunteered to help clean it up. Working together as a team under the summer heat, the brothers carefully pulled out all the weeds on that side and neatly trimmed the small tree. Afterwards, the older brother Qingjun and younger brother Zixuan used a blower to clear away all the grass clippings and leaves from the pavement. Thanks to their hard work, the pathway and green area on the side of the church now look much cleaner and tidier. As their mother, I feel very comforted to see Qingjun and Zixuan using their own hands to do what they can for the community and the church, learning about contribution and personal growth through labor. I am grateful to the church for providing such a great opportunity for the children to learn and practice. I hope they will maintain this helpful spirit, and I wish all children a fulfilling and rewarding summer vacation.

SUMMER LIFE EFFORT
Submitted by: Vicky (Jing Tian)



From the Editor: Thank you Vicky for sharing these efforts done by your sons for our gardens. It is a big task and their initiative in taking this effort on is very appreciated by our congregation, as well as all the visitors that come to our church each week. Thank you Qingjun and Zixuan for bringing smiles to many people when they see the work you've both done in our gardens.

A Burningbush Eco-ministry Retreat

On August 19th, join Rev. Emily Gordon for a Burningbush Eco-ministry planning retreat – a chance to think intentionally on how and when to bring a creation lens into worship, programming, and community life in the year ahead.

- *Who:* Ministers and church leaders (such as music directors, worship chairs, and others)
- *When:* August 19th, 10-3 (gathering at 9:45am)
- *Where:* Bloordale Campus, Islington United Church - 4258 Bloor St W, Etobicoke (a 15 minute bus ride from Kipling Station)
- *What:* Group discussion and individual/team planning time, along with simple spaces for worship and nature connection
- *What to bring:* A packed lunch and water bottle/travel mug; notebook/pen or laptop; optional current church calendar &/or planning document for the coming year
- *Cost:* \$40+ for part-time & student ministers. \$50+ for full-time ministers (OR become an Annual Supporter). \$10-20 each for additional people from your community of faith (music director, lay leaders, etc.), If the cost is prohibitive, please contact Emily – the goal is to make this accessible to everyone!

The impacts of the climate crisis are being felt by all of us. Extreme heat warnings in southern Ontario echo record temperatures in other parts of the world, including Europe and India, and impact the most vulnerable in our society – those who are underhoused and with low income, the elderly and children, and those in neighbourhoods with limited green spaces and their cooling impacts. This is only one example of how the climate crisis is impacting our bodies, minds, and spirits; as churches, we need to be present and relevant, drawing on scripture stories and spiritual practices as sources of hope and support for our individual and collective choices to care for creation and one another as a part of creation.

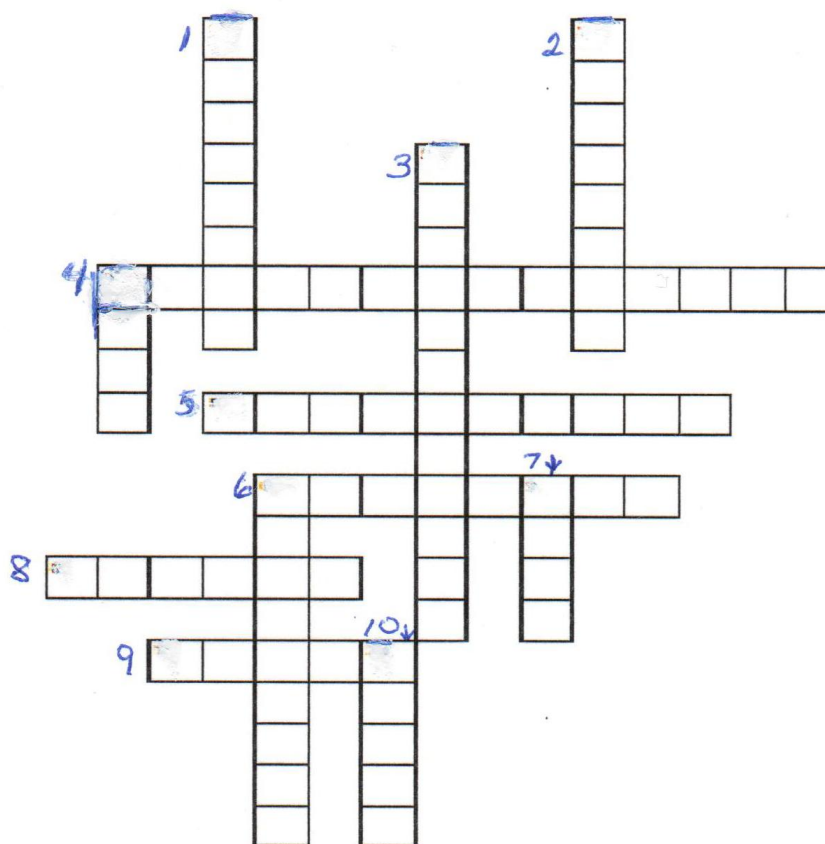
The good news is that we can do this without wagging fingers from the pulpit or adding more load to already busy communities of faith! Let's plan how we'll do this, engaging with your specific context. (Plus, a retreat day before the busy-ness of September is always a good choice, and there will be space for connection and personal renewal as well).

Register by August 10th (just enter 0 when Zeffy asks you for extra):

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/jubilee-united-churchs-shop> or contact Emily with questions or to confirm multiple participants at rev.emily.gordon@proton.me

St. Matt's Summer Crossword

Here's a summer crossword for those who garden or those who watch gardeners at work. This short crossword puzzle will have you on the porch trying to find the right answers. Enjoy!



Down:

1. Removal of flowers when they die
2. Long handled double direction weeder.
3. Use to water hanging pots.
4. When to plant bulbs
6. Small plants for your garden
7. A favourite flower for many gardeners.
10. Add these to your soups, stews and salads

Across:

4. Nearby plant expert and TV/Radio personality
5. They just keep growing for years
6. First flower of spring.
8. A hose that drips along its length to feed plants
9. A ground cover of bark chips, straw, or leaves.

The solution to this cross puzzle will be available in our next newsletter.

Puzzle by Doreen Coyne using Education.com.