

Balzac Pastoral Charge
of the United Church of Canada
World Food Sunday October 15, 2023
Minister: Kelly Grittner

Prelude

Jesus, Name Above All Names -arr. M. Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Land Acknowledgement

“As we gather together, let us pause to remember that we live, work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territories of the nations of Treaty 7. As Christ’s people, may we be people of love, of truth, and of reconciliation. May we live with respect on this land, and in peace and friendship with its people.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Won’t you stand, by me,
Oh-oh stand by me,
Oh stand, stand by me, stand by me.
The candle is lit.

“Forgive Me” Mary Oliver, *Blue Horses, 2014, Penguin Press.*

“Angels are wonderful but they are so, well, aloof.
It’s what I sense in the mud and the roots of the
trees, or the well, or the barn, or the rock with
its citron map of lichen that halts my feet and
makes my eyes flare, feeling the presence of some
spirit, some small god, who abides there.

If I were a perfect person, I would be bowing
continuously.
I’m not, though I pause wherever I feel this
holiness, which is why I’m so often late coming
back from wherever I went. Forgive me.”

Hymn

It Only Takes a Spark”

VU 289

Call to Worship

Like a storm surging, soaring over a warm ocean,
like the blush of red coming to autumn’s orchards,
like the voices of those demanding dignity and justice,
God’s presence is experienced.
Pay attention to God’s word, O people.

Guardian of my soul,
guide me on my way this day,
keep me safe from harm.
Deepen my relationship with you,
your Earth, and all your family.
Strengthen your love within me
that I may be a presence of your peace
in your world. Amen

BLESSINGS FOR THE JOURNEY

Live simply

Love generously

Care deeply

Speak kindly

Leave the rest to God

**As we go, may the blessings of God surprise
and surround us this day and always.**

Postlude

Change My Heart, Oh God -arr. M. Hayes