

1st WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION



Members of Our Lady's Circle with our Group Guide, Graydon and his wife Beth, hosted the first inter-faith *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* at Sts. Simon and Jude Parish in Nackawic, NB on September 1, 2015. The inter-faith service was attended by 49 people from various churches in the area. It was a historic event with the opening hymn "*Sing to the Mountains*". Pat Lawson welcomed all with a warm greeting and the opening prayer in praise of creation, *Canticle of the Sun* by St. Francis of Assisi was read by Beth Nicholas. Deborah Albert proclaimed our creation story *Genesis 1.1-2.2*, a story from the heart of our Creator. Karen Reeves led us in response to the Scripture reading with Psalm 104: *Lord, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the Earth* followed by Psalm Prayer by Francois Thebeau. "*Almighty ever-living God, who are wonderful in the ordering of all your works, may those you have redeemed understand that there exists nothing more marvelous than the world's creation in the beginning except that, at the end of ages, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. O God, who wonderfully created human nature and still more wonderfully redeemed it, grant us, we pray, to set our minds against the enticements of sin so as to be good stewards of all you have created.*"

Graydon Nicholas shared his reflection on creation reminding us that all God creates is beautiful and invited us to imagine every morning holding a baby for 15 minutes and absorb how the baby looks at you and all that is new in absolute wonder. We must be like a child and look at the world daily in such wonder!

Graydon then led us in the *Prayer to the Four Directions* by Chief Seattle. During the prayer, each of the four directions were represented by a candle held up by CLCers facing East (red), North (white), West (black) and South (yellow).

Intercessory Prayer of the Faithful was led by Pat Lawson followed by the great communal prayer, *Our Father*.

The closing hymn was *MAGNIFICAT* (Lk 1.46-55) sung to the tune of Amazing Grace with voices rising to the rafters and the closing *Prayer to the Holy Spirit* was led Sandy Wright. Thank you and dismissal was beautifully given by Deborah Albert.

Those who attended and participated felt honored at being part of such a wonderful, prayerful service and very much in communion with God, each other and all of creation!