

Sunday 6th September 2020

FOREST SUNDAY



Awhi Rito

Morning Worship 9-30

WELCOME

Groucho Marx, that famous theologian said, “Why should I care for future generations- what did they do for me”

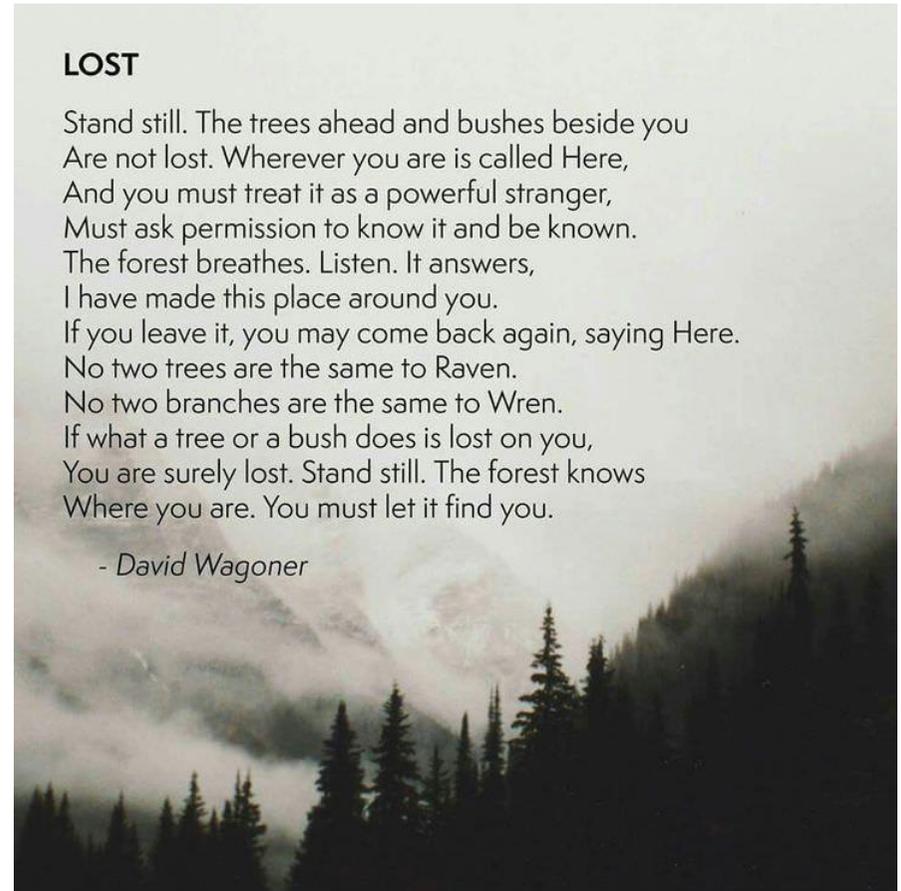
Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “ If we have no peace it is because we have forgotten we belong to each other.”

Song-King of my heart

LOST

Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,
Must ask permission to know it and be known.
The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,
I have made this place around you.
If you leave it, you may come back again, saying Here.
No two trees are the same to Raven.
No two branches are the same to Wren.
If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you,
You are surely lost. Stand still. The forest knows
Where you are. You must let it find you.

- David Wagoner



Our native plants and animals are continuing to decline across the country, with over 80% of our land-based birds, bats, reptiles and frogs in trouble. **ALL-We are sorry**

A third of New Zealand's land is public conservation land, managed by the Department of Conservation. In these areas, nature appears superficially intact, but forests are being degraded by pests, and in many places wildlife is still disappearing. **ALL- We are sorry**



Kea are the world's only alpine parrot. Hundreds of thousands of them were once found through New Zealand's South Island, but today just 3,000 - 7,000 remain. **ALL-We are sorry**
Credit: Craig McKenzie

Prayer of Confession

God of all plants and creatures, we are sorry that we have not cared for your planet with more thought for our fellow inhabitants. We hope it is not too late to commit to conserving what we must treasure- clean air and water and a rich diversity of plants and animals who have a right to be here. Let us share, let us conserve let us act, let us hope.

Absolution

God loves you.

God forgives you.

God calls you over and over again into new life.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace

Reading Genesis 2:4b-22

Song Afio Mai

Reading Psalm 139:13-16

John 3:1-16

Affirmation Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer

Eternal Spirit,

Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,

now and for ever. Amen.

Peace

Walk

Blessing and Dismissal

Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion
and to serve Earth by caring for creation. Hold again the fragrant
symbol in your hands as you go forth to serve.

**We will remember the forest! We will groan with creation! We
will sing with the trees!**

Will you care for creation?

**We will care for creation! We will nurture the forests! We will
celebrate life!**

May the Spirit of God,
who is above all and in all and through all,
fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and the
impulse of Christ within you.

Go in peace,
serving Christ and loving Earth! ¹

¹ <https://seasonofcreation.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/liturgy-forest-sunday-1.pdf>



