

## **2015 CBC Anniversary Prayer**

By Christopher Turner

Together we pause and become quiet in contemplation of the presence of divine life as the processes of life itself.

### *Short silence*

We feel the wonder that awakes in us as we contemplate the chaotic and endlessly divergent evolutions that constitute the living world we are part of.

Our wonder is an intricate weaving together of sheer joy and awe filled terror. We rejoice in the dynamics of diversity intrinsic to the processes of life. We are terrified that in order for life to be life our own particular part in it is necessarily short, all too soon giving way for the sake of the new and divergent life that must replace us.

Life born from life, related and yet radically new and fresh, unpredictable and beyond our control.

***Together we seek the courage and humility to accept, and rejoice in, the gift of life and our limited part in its infinite story.***

We feel the wonder that awakens in us as we contemplate the complex nature of our humanity. Love, suffering, strength, vulnerability, gentleness, violence, healing, birthing, dying...

***Together we look at Jesus of Nazareth in whom humanity was revealed in its glorious depth and accepted as the wondrous gift of divine life. We seek the humanity that he revealed. We commit ourselves to walk with him in courage and acceptance as sisters and brothers on the journey into the depths of our humanity and its essential nature rooted in divine life.***

We feel the awful wonder of terror and outrage when we witness and experience the disinterested potential of life itself to shed itself of any element that threatens to hold it back from dynamic diversity and swallow it in the static death of homogeneity.

We feel terror when nature kills with random ferocity and stealthy violence. Yet we feel the same arbitrary justice rise up in us when we witness and experience the dominant evil of human beings and their institutions and corporate systems. Along with nature we cry out for justice and we cut off the forces within our community that stifle the dynamic diversity of life.

***So, together with life itself, we rage against wars waged in the name of domination, the suffering of the many for the profit of the few, the rejection of the vulnerable for the safety of the strong.***

We feel the wonder of receiving this gift of dynamic life and sharing it with others who have also received the gift. We embrace community, sharing the dynamics of love, suffering, strength, vulnerability, gentleness, violence, healing, birthing and dying. With courage together we accept our place in life itself and live it with gratitude and wonder, seeking always the paths that will enable us to participate in the flourishing of diversity and dynamics in ourselves and the world we inhabit.

***We, the people of this faith community, rejoice in the dynamics of our community life, celebrate the diversity that is, and has been, the generator of life within us, embrace the future as radically open and accept the invitation to give ourselves to the future trusting that in the companionship of Jesus, we will find ourselves to be complete in the One in whom all life has its roots. Amen.***