

Wild Worship: An Introduction and Invitation

Wild Worship, or worship in the wild, widens our Church's embrace of the more-than-human world. More than outdoor prayer, Wild Worship recognizes the creatures who share our world as neighbors, wild beings we are called to love and protect. The words of Psalm 98, "Let the hills sing together for joy," challenge us to see and feel God's love shining through and surrounding all Creation. Wild Worship sings and proclaims from the Christian tradition, placing us in relationship with one another and with the holy Wild – holy because God brought all into being. These sacred experiences include prayer and learning. Crucially, we make time to encounter in silence the wild neighbors around us. We close with reflection, blessings, and encouragement to find the love of Christ, through whom all things are made, in the wild, and to care for our more-than-human neighbors. We hope all who join us for Wild Worship will continue to see those more-than-human presences all around them. As we all move through our days, may we draw strength for service to humanity, and beyond, from our encounters with God's love in wild spaces.

The Creation Care Ministry will schedule Wild Worship events throughout the year. Northern New Englanders half-joke, "There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad outerwear choices." Winter proclaims God's presence as fully as every other season. At times of cold or rainy weather, we urge folks to come out dressed for the days' offerings of wind or wet. These occasions will take place where indoor gathering places are available, such as the Norman Bird Sanctuary, to encourage time of prayer, teaching and reflection together, out of the elements. We will not meet in the face extreme weather.