



# Deeper Roots and New Awakenings

*A prayer at the Salford Mennonite  
Cemetery October 15, 2023*

## Land Acknowledgement

### Opening Song: VT 181 Creation is a Song vv. 1-2

Creation is a Song / Ho'é enemeche  
For this refrain, either language may be sung alone, or the two may be sung in combination. Voices Together 181

Cre - a - tion is a song, a song that we can see,  
Ho'è e - ne - me - o - he. Ne - vooh - ta - no - ne.  
a sa - cred gift from God, let's join the har - mo - ny.  
Ma' - he - o - 'o ne - me - tae - no - ne.

Creation is a Song / Ho'é enemeche Voices Together 181

1 The roll - ing of the o - ceans,  
the bub - bling of a spring,  
night sky filled with jew - els,  
a flock of beat - ing wings.

### **Verse 2:**

Dancing prairie meadow, Fruit swaying on the vine  
Boiling storm clouds rising, Lightning 'cross the sky.

### **Gathering Prayer:**

In the presence of the Creator, we gather here  
in a spirit of gratitude.

Gratitude for all the gifts of Creation—the air, the water, the land,  
the change of seasons. Gratitude for all the creatures  
that walk, swim, fly, and crawl on this earth.

**We gather seeking wisdom to help us listen, learn, and make repair.  
We gather seeking wisdom to live according to your will  
and follow Jesus faithfully.**

## **Paraphrase of Psalm 106:1–5**

*(from Rev. Nancy Best, Mohawk, United Church of Canada)*

### **Sharing of the harvest and words of reflection**

#### **Blessing** *(all read in unison):*

O Great Spirit, God of all people and every tribe,  
through whom all people are related;  
Call us to the kinship of all your people.  
Grant us vision to see the brokenness of the past;  
Help us to listen to one another,  
in order to heal the wounds of the present;  
And give us courage, patience, and wisdom to work together  
for healing and hope with all of your people, now and in the future.  
Mend the hoop of our hearts and let us live in justice and peace  
through Jesus Christ, the One who comes to all people that we  
might live in dignity. Amen.

*(based on prayer from St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Port Royal VA)*

#### **Closing Song:** For the Beauty of the Earth



*Salford Mennonite Church sits on the homelands of the Lenape people, who have stewarded the lands for thousands of years. In 1718 it was part of a 200-acre purchase by immigrant Mennonite settlers Henrich and Magdalena Ruth from surveyor-speculator David Powell. The surrounding Perkiomen watershed had been “bought” by William Penn from Lenape headman Maughoughsin in 1684 for two coats, “four pair stockings, and four bottles of sider.”*