

AUGUSTANA
where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

Pentecost 17 October 4, 2020
St. Francis of Assisi

Welcome to worship.

Thanks to worship assistant Sharon or Gord Morley, our musicians Deb Buck, Cornet player ? and choir members, tech people Bryan and Greg.

Season of creation: Today marks the end of the Season of Creation. This season of creation is a time we share with Christians of many differing backgrounds and worship traditions from around the world. In this season we acknowledge both the wonder of God's gift of creation and our misuse of this gift.

GATHERING SONG "Beautiful Savior" # 838 v. 1, 2, 3

Beautiful Savior, king of creation
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee
Light of my soul my joy, my crown

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moon light,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

GREETING

Leader: We gather in the image of the Creator

All: who is a community of love.

We gather in the name of the Redeemer

who reconciles all of creation.

Leader: We gather in the presence of the Life Giver

who inspires new life and renews it.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him, the

heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

- I wish you were here ...
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THANKSGIVING FOR CREATION & BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS note: *(This is where I am hoping it will work to have the animal pictures scrolling through)*

Leader: In the call of the loon and the meadowlark's song:

ALL: God's joy at the heart of all things

In the gap-toothed grin of a mischievous child:

God's joy at the heart of all things

In the tantalising smell of freshly baked bread:

God's joy at the heart of all things

In the starlit splendour of the winter sky:

God's joy at the heart of all things

In the satisfying squelch of a muddy walk:

God's joy at the heart of all things

In the ladybug's flight and the duck's waddle:

God's joy at the heart of all things

In the sharing of stories and a cup of coffee:

God's joy at the heart of all things

God our Creator, we thank you for the gift of animals in our world. We thank you for the many ways animals are part of our lives: as companions, in fertilizing the soil, in pollinating the plants and in providing food and drink for us. Bless the animals shown today and all creatures of the earth. May our relationships with these animals mirror your love, and teach us how to love.
AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷ For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice for ever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.

¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
 and delight in my people;
 no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
 or the cry of distress.
²⁰ No more shall there be in it
 an infant that lives but a few days,
 or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
 for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
 and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them;
 they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
²² They shall not build and another inhabit;
 they shall not plant and another eat;
 for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
 and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
²³ They shall not labour in vain,
 or bear children for calamity;
 for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—
 and their descendants as well.
²⁴ Before they call I will answer,
 while they are yet speaking I will hear.
²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
 the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
 but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
 They shall not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain,

says the LORD.

Word of God, Word of life **thanks be to God**

ALLELUIA

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew chapter 11:25-30

Glory to you, O Lord

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the

intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

28 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

MEDITATION

SONG "Touch the Earth Lightly" # 739 v. 1 & 3

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care;
Gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
Health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: One We belong to the Creator in whose image we are all made.

All: In God we are breathing, in God we are living, in God we share the life of all creation.

We belong to Jesus Christ, the true icon of God and of humanity.

In him God is breathing, in him God is living, through him we are reconciled.

We belong to the Holy Spirit, who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

In the Spirit love is breathing, in the Spirit truth is living, the breath of God always moves us.

We belong to the Holy Trinity, who is one in all and Three-in-One.

In God we are all made, in Christ we are all saved, in the Spirit we are all united.

(Per Harling)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: This we know, the earth does not belong to us:

All: we belong to the earth.

This we know, all things are connected:

like the blood which unites one family.

For we did not weave the web of life:

we are merely a strand of it.

Whatever we do to the web,

we do to ourselves.

In the light of your word

(a moment of quiet)

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us

and to empower our lives in the world.

Our sins are forgiven, God's love is unconditional,

and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new,

in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us join hearts and voices together in prayer. Each short prayer will end with the words "in your mercy" and you can make the prayer your own by responding "**hear our prayer.**"

We pray in thanksgiving for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted, Brother Sun whose energy radiates life, Sister Water who nurtures and revives us, and co-creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called to till and keep this garden.

A brief silence.

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth, so precious in your eyes. We pray for all who live in exile especially the Iqbal and Alhamad-Wahid families. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing to our lives. We pray especially for Bishop Gomez, Bruce, Gloria, Logan, Marcus, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Inger, Anne Jane, Deanna, Ron, Marlene, and for all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts

(a pause to offer time to name others)

..... Hold them all in your care. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us how we may protect the world and not prey on it, to sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. In your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. In your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

In the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic, hear our cries of compassion, and heal our world and all creatures. Inspire our hearts with a holy imagination, to rise, freed from the demands to produce and consume to imagine a just, sustainable way of living, where all have enough, and all may be restored. In your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

During this Season of Creation, grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. Send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the ground. In your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Creative Spirit, **Amen**.

Pastor Marilyn: Knowing how God loves us as a Mother and Father we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

May God the Creator who made heaven and earth bless us with creativity and wonder.

May Jesus who walked through fields and cities bless us with kind hands and listening ears,

May the Holy Spirit who is around us and within us bless us with the courage to be caring and just. May we work and walk in the strong love of the Trinity all our nights and days. AMEN.

SENDING SONG “God of the Sparrow” # 740 v. 1, 2, 3

God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

DISMISSAL

Go now and revel in God's world
Go now to be creative and work for justice
Go now to love your neighbour
Go now to love and serve the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD. AMEN.

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