

Order of Worship

Season of Creation

September 2024

GATHERING

Welcome!

The “Season of Creation” has the theme “To Hope and Act With Creation.”

The Biblical notion of hope involves movement. From fear and despair to change, action and redemption. We recognize the precious and fragile natural world that sustains us and we renew our hope and commitment to preserve God’s gift. We join the Psalmists and rejoice with all creation. We recognize our dependence upon the natural world and celebrate the earth as a sacred place, a sanctuary filled with God’s presence.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(SLIDE)

In the name of God, who created the earth and all living things on it,

In the name of Jesus Christ, born as part of the human family, and the name of the Spirit who envelops and stirs our world with the winds of love.

+ Amen.

We celebrate Creation, a sanctuary for God’s presence!

We thank you for water in our rivers and lakes, for air to breathe scented with grass and pines and summer dust, and for the beauty of deer, quail and turkeys moving through our fields.

We celebrate Creation, a sanctuary for God’s presence!

Let us move forward together, with joy and gratitude, committed to honoring and caring for God’s glorious and precious creation here and all over the the earth

We celebrate Creation, a sanctuary for God’s presence!

GATHERING SONG (see Song Sheet)

[STAND]

(SLIDES)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

[STAND]

(SLIDES)

We confess that we have not paid attention to the whole of creation. In our concern for our own species, we have trampled others. We have considered the wild, beautiful, life-sustaining ecosystems of the world merely “our environment.”

With industry, we have not understood how our actions influence the lives of bugs, birds, and fish.

With politics, we have not always cared how our policies affect the whole of creation.

We have taken for granted clean air, water, and soil. We have elevated our existence over that of other living beings.

We have ignored our scientists and pushed aside the concerns of our children.

We beg forgiveness from future peoples. We beg forgiveness from our sibling species with whom we share this planet.

God of creation, have mercy on us and help us. We don't know what we do. Turn us, change us, and heal us, that we might be good siblings and generous partners with creation.

Silence for reflection

Beloved of God, hear this word of hope. As people knit into the life of Jesus Christ, change is possible for us. Jesus healed the sick, forgave sinners, and gave aimless people deep purpose. Receive forgiveness for the past and new courage for the future. Knowing God's great love, may we live the way of Jesus. **Amen**

KYRIE ELEISON

[STAND] (SLIDES)

Eternal God, the whole world is full of your glory.

We bear forth the anguish of Creation in the time of the climate crisis to you.

In your grace, grant us the opportunity to do good, as your created co-creators.

Lord have mercy. **Christ have mercy.** (ASL "Christ have mercy.")

Jesus Christ, you have walked the Earth and lived in our midst.

Make us sensitive to the suffering of humankind and the entire creation.

Strengthen us in our endeavors to create a life of dignity,

in justice, and solidarity with those who live and will live.

Lord have mercy. **Christ have mercy.** (ASL "Christ have mercy.")

Holy Spirit, power of courage and self-control, you speak to our consciences.

Comfort us when we suffer and are plagued by anxiety.

Make us worry when we are numb in the calmness of complacency.

Re-create us to become what we are: one humanity under the same sky.

Lord have mercy. **Christ have mercy.** (ASL "Christ have mercy.")

(Adapted from "Prayer for the Climate" from the "Bishops's Letter for the Climate" of the Church of Sweden)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[STAND] (BLANK SLIDE)

Mighty and merciful God, lover of justice and equity, you call us to support the weak, to help those who suffer, and to honor all people. By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us advocates for your justice and instruments of your peace, so that all may be reconciled to your beloved community, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

(ACS, p. 47)

WORD

KIDS TIME

(hold on BLANK SLIDE)

SCRIPTURE SONG

[STAND] (SLIDE)

Praise the God of All Creation

***Praise the God of All Creation, Alleluia!
Praise the same God in our hearts, Alleluia!***

(2x)

Text and Music: Max Dyer

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SCRIPTURE

[STAND] (SLIDE)

The Scripture is announced and read

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

(BLANK SLIDE)

SERMON SONG (see Song Sheet)

(SLIDES)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

[STAND] (SLIDES)

Let us affirm our faith together.

**We have faith in one God, one Source of all life,
one Ground of the whole Earth, who created all things good.**

**And we have faith in Christ, in whom we have been shown the special role of
humanity to bear God's likeness in working and caring for Creation,
in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers,
in working with these powers for the wellbeing of life on Earth.**

**And we have faith
in God’s Spirit who leads us to a meek, unselfish and compassionate life-style.
So that the Earth is inherited in peace,
her life is transformed for all creatures and her bounty shared justly.**

So be it. Amen.

(Adapted From India. Source: Sinfonia Oecumenica, Gütersloher Verlagshaus, Gütersloh 1998.
Reproduced by ECEN for Creation Time 2003)

(Sung—led by Worship Music Team)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[STAND] (SLIDE)

For the Healing of the Nations

After each petition: ***Peace be yours.*** (ASL “Peace be with you”)

Chorus: ***For the healing of the nations, we pray to you, O God.*** (2x)

MEAL

PEACE

(SLIDES)

In Christ, we are called not to conform to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

We seek to discern the will of God, to do what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let us not lag in zeal but be ardent in spirit and serve God.

We intend to live in harmony with one another and with all of Creation.

The peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us strive to live peaceably with all and share a sign of peace with one another.

Sharing of the Peace

(Peace and Offering SLIDE)

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

[STAND] (SLIDES)

WOV 760 For the Fruit of All Creation

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,

future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, b. 1903 | Music: Welsh

OFFERING PRAYER [STAND] (BLANK SLIDE)

Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING [STAND] (SLIDES)

The Creator be with you and all Creation. **And also with you.**

Open your hearts. **We open them to our Creator.**

Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and earth.

It is right to join Creation in thanking God.

It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator. Your word is the impulse for all things to be, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit. Your Spirit breathes life into all things, renewing the barren and healing the wounded, groaning in anticipation of a new creation.

Your presence fills every element and place, filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day. Therefore with angels and archangels, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea and the whole company of creation, we proclaim your presence among us, as we sing:

Refrain: ***Holy, holy, holy! Holy, holy, holy
is our God, is our God!***

Hosanna! Hosanna to our God, to our God!

*(The mountains can't help but bow down to you, the oceans, they lift up their waves!
With hearts that are full of gratitude, we boldly praise your name)* Refrain

(BLANK SLIDE)

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by God's Holy Spirit we pray together:

The Lord's Prayer *(spoken)*

[STAND]

(SLIDES)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

LAMB OF GOD

(SLIDES)

(Lamb of God) **Lamb of God**
(you take away) **you take away**
(the sin of) **the sin of**
(the world.) **the world.**
(Miserere nobis) **Miserere nobis**

(Bread of Life) **Bread of Life**
(you take away) **you take away**
(the sin of) **the sin of**
(the world.) **the world.**
(Miserere nobis) **Miserere nobis**

(Agnus Dei) **Agnus Dei**
(you take away) **you take away**
(the sin of) **the sin of**
(the world.) **the world.**
(Dona nobis pacem) **Dona nobis pacem**
(2x)

Words and Music: Matt Maher

COMMUNION

COMMUNION BLESSING

[STAND]

(BLANK SLIDE)

Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world.
Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for
others, and give us the wisdom to live resiliently in harmony with your Creation.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION SONG

[STAND]

(SLIDES)

Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
(2x)

SENDING

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Announcements

(SLIDE: **Our Life Together**)

SENDING SONG (see Song Sheet)

[STAND]

(SLIDES)

BLESSING

[STAND]

(SLIDES)

May God who can set Creation free, show us the eternal glory.

Glory to God.

May God who knows our groaning and crying, bring about new life.

Now and always.

May God who helps us in our weakness, give us the firstfruits of hope.

The Lord is our hope.

And may the Triune God sprinkle into our hearts the dew of God's grace
and bless us all. **Amen.**

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS BLESSING

FOR 9/8 ONLY

We are called to proclaim the good news:

God is at work!

The good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

God is at work in the world still today!

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work.

When we offer a helping hand, God is praised.

When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world.

God is at work in us!

In our service today and in our daily lives, let us live out what God has
called us to in baptism. **God is at work through our hands!**

God who sets forth the law of love,

Jesus who fulfils the law for you,

and the Spirit through whom you are called to love,

+ bless you this day,

that you may be God's hands and heart and voice

at work in the world. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL SONG

[STAND] (SLIDES)

Keep Us Fruitful

*Like the branches on a vine, keep us fruitful.
Like birds in a nest, keep us grateful.
Like the breeze
upon the trees,
Oh Lord,
keep us peaceful.*

DISMISSAL

(SLIDE)

Go in peace, serving Christ and tending Earth!

May we hope and act with Creation!

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS DISMISSAL
FOR 9/8 ONLY

Go in peace.

You are God's hands at work in the world!

Thanks be to God. May we hope and act with Creation!

This is a REUSABLE bulletin

for the SEASON of CREATION

9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22 & 9/29

PLEASE DO NOT DISCARD