

Season of Creation 1

September 6, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! It is our prayer that this will be a time of worship and renewal for you, when you will encounter the living God revealed in Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION:

In the story of creation God provided a paradise. All of creation was in balance and was a delight. And God set clear boundaries so that balance could be maintain and all created things could flourish—boundaries that provided definition that made possible the amazing diversity of the created world; and particularly today—the vast diversity of the forest and trees and all her creatures.

Sadly, it is a diversity that is diminishing—approximately 8 million hectares per year!

We are mindful in this Season of Creation that we share in the gifts *and* responsibilities of God's good creation. Emboldened as disciples of Christ and enlivened in our witness to the One who came to redeem all of creation; we turn to God's repairing, restoring, and renewing work among us, in our forests, and for all things created good.

GATHERING

INVOCATION

In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life, the name of ✠ Christ, the pulse of life, and the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. **Amen.**

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

Christ we come into your presence today to worship in this sanctuary called Earth.

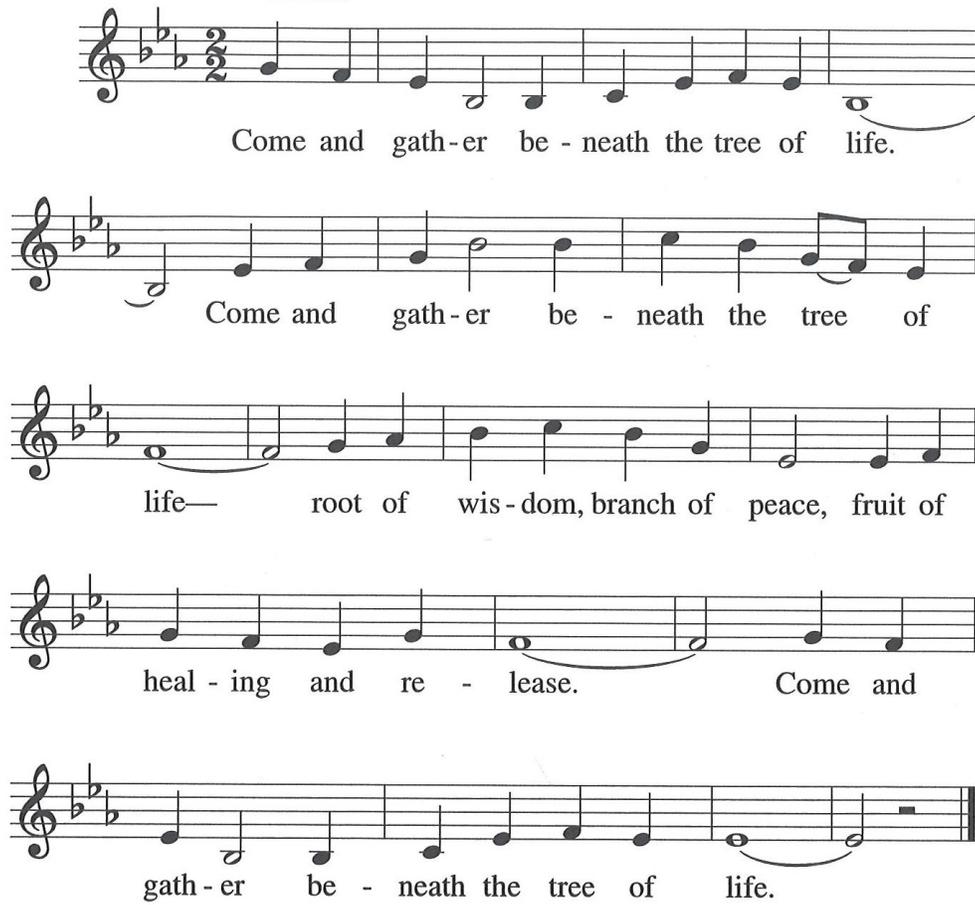
A planet filled with your presence, quivering the forests, vibrating the land, pulsating in the wilderness, shimmering in the rivers.

God, reveal yourself to us in this place and show us your face in all creation.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

GATHERING SONG "Come and Gather"

Refrain



Come and gath-er be - neath the tree of life.

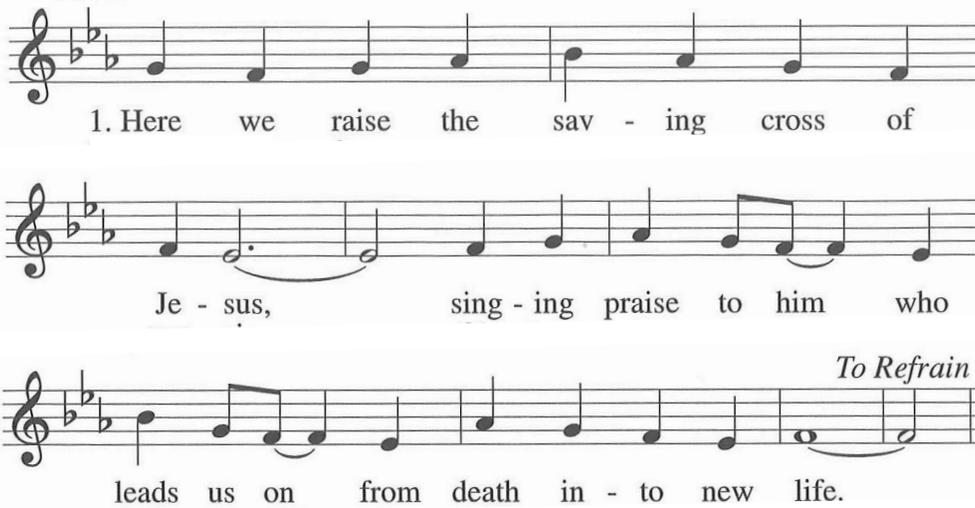
Come and gath-er be - neath the tree of

life— root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of

heal - ing and re - lease. Come and

gath-er be - neath the tree of life.

Verses



1. Here we raise the sav - ing cross of

Je - sus, sing - ing praise to him who

leads us on from death in - to new life.

To Refrain

REMEMBERING

We remember the first garden, when God planted a forest of trees.

We remember the gardens and the forests of our childhood, the places where we played in the past, when we felt close to the Earth and to trees.

We remember and rejoice.

Thank you, God, for trees, for forests filled with mysteries!

"Come and Gather"

*Come and gather beneath the tree of life
Come and gather beneath the tree of life
Root of wisdom, branch of peace,
Fruit of healing and release
Come and gather beneath the tree of life.*

Flowing from this tree of grace and passion
Oh how sweet the taste, how deep and rich
The wellspring of your love *Refrain*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Gracious, Creative and Creating God we remember and confess:

That we have become alienated from Earth and that we have violated the forests in our garden planet. We are sorry. We have been thoughtless and greedy. We have ignored the destruction of our forests, the death of old-growth giants and species breathing their last.

Gracious, Creative and Creating God we remember and confess. We are sorry.

We are sorry. Forgive us, renew us and all creation we pray. Amen.

In the mercy of God, Christ hears your confession from the cross and forgives your sins against the forest and against all creation. In the name of God, the Creator, and of +Christ, God's own heart; and of the Spirit of Breath, your sins are forgiven. Come and gather beneath the tree of life! **Amen!**

"Come and Gather"

*Come and gather beneath the tree of life
Come and gather beneath the tree of life
Root of wisdom, branch of peace,
Fruit of healing and release
Come and gather beneath the tree of life*

Here beneath the branches of your mercy
We invoke your name, remember how
Your love has set us free *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us, especially in the mysteries of the forest.

Help us to empathize with your forest creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the forest and all creatures of the forest. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

First Reading: Genesis 1:11-13, 26-31

Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Psalm: Adapted from Isaiah 41:17-20

Let us rejoice in the LORD; in the Holy One of Israel we will glory.

For the Lord says, "When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, when they are dying of thirst and cannot find water, I, the Lord God of Israel, will not forget my people, I will come to their rescue.

The trees will stand as witness, so that all may see and know, so that everyone can consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, that I hold all of creation in the palm of my hand."

I will make rivers flow on mountain peaks. I will send streams to fill the valleys. Dry and barren deserts will flow with streams. The valleys will gather into pools of refreshing water.

The trees will stand as witness, so that all may see and know, so that everyone can consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, that I hold all of creation in the palm of my hand."

I will fill the wilderness with all kinds of trees: the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle. From the desert sands, the olive and the cypress. On the mountain heights the fir and the pine together.

The trees will stand as witness, so that all may see and know, so that everyone can consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, that I hold all of creation in the palm of my hand."

When you are set free, you will celebrate and travel home in peace.

Mountains and hills will sing as you pass by; the trees will clap their hands. Cypress and myrtle trees will grow in fields once covered by thorns. The trees will stand as a lasting witness to the glory of the Lord.

The trees will stand as witness, so that all may see and know, so that everyone can consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this. O my people, listen and know that I hold you in the palm of my hand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-32

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter.

Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus] put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

The Gospel of our Lord.

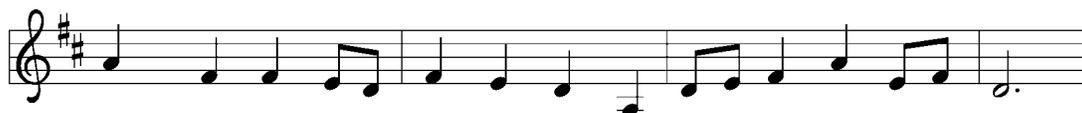
Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "This Is My Father's World" ELW 824



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.
morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their mak-er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.
rus-ling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav-en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together.

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became one in and with creation; a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos

We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe in the church and as created beings; the communion we share in kinship with all creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Loving God, creator of the Universe, you know every creature and its needs. With great trust we turn our hearts to you.

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathize with the earth...We pray for earth's soil, that it's richness be protected to assure abundant harvests for all.

Jesus Christ, make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation...We pray for creatures who share the earth with us, that their beauty and diversity will be preserved.

Jesus Christ, make our ears sensitive to the cries of justice from the hills and trees and for the endangered species of our forests...We pray for future generations that they may learn to be environmentally responsible and to be good stewards of your creation.

Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit, groans from the deserts, the salt plains, and the winds...We pray for the waters of the world, that they may be restored to health and filled with abundant life.

Jesus Christ, make our souls sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration from the sea, the land and the air...We pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who have been directly impacted by the effects of climate change.

Jesus Christ, teach us to care.

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit especially Sharla Asplund, Debi Bailey, Renee Barton, Marion Belle, Arne Birk, Eva Dreilich, Olai and Suzy Egeland, Dave and Trudy Elliot, Lyle and Marlene Everitt, Olivia, Syd Hall, Pastor Dick and Jan Hanson, Corrie Hann, Patrick Hicks, Klaus Isele, Harriet Jacobson, Shirley Johnson, Eowyn Miller, Lorraine Neal, Catherine Pike, Grace Pittman, Lilian Pohjakas, Margaret Pommen, Lars & Hazel Rawling, Clayton Sailer, Montgomery Sailer, Rosemary Shannon, Landon Skretting, Wayne Street, Elizabeth Whiteford and Judy and Ron, and all those suffering with COVID. We pray especially today for Joan and Kristin Ailsby and for Georgia Wood. We ask that you would continue to bless Pastor Kathy and our Sunday School.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. Amen

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 who established the dance of creation;
Who set the stars to twinkle in the heavens;
Who causes the waves to crash and foam;
Who makes the calf skip for joy and the trees clap their hands;
May God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit;
Fill you with joy and transform your lives; that with all the earth you might reflect the glory of God. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "God is a World of Beauty" (v1,3&4)



. God's is a world of beau - ty in land and sea and air; aes -
. As God is our Cre - a - tor and all God's im - age bear, we
. We thank you, Ho - ly Spir - it, for all that you in - spire, for
thet - ics born in heav - en the o - cean depths de - clare. Both
each are blessed with tal - ents to treas - ure and to share. Thus
un - at - tained per - fec - tion to which we still a - spire; and
har - mo - ny and dis - cord e - merge from moth - er earth, while
paint - er, pot - ter, po - et, com - pos - er, danc - er, mime, en -
for our Sav - ior Je - sus whose craft - ed words re - veal di -
sun - set sky and thun - der pro - claim their Mak - er's worth.
a - ble form and beau - ty in sym - bol, sound, and time.
vine i - mag - i - na - tion, true beau - ty, ev - er real.

SENDING OUT

Christ calls you to be disciples, to serve others with love and compassion and to serve Earth by caring for creation.

We will remember the forest!

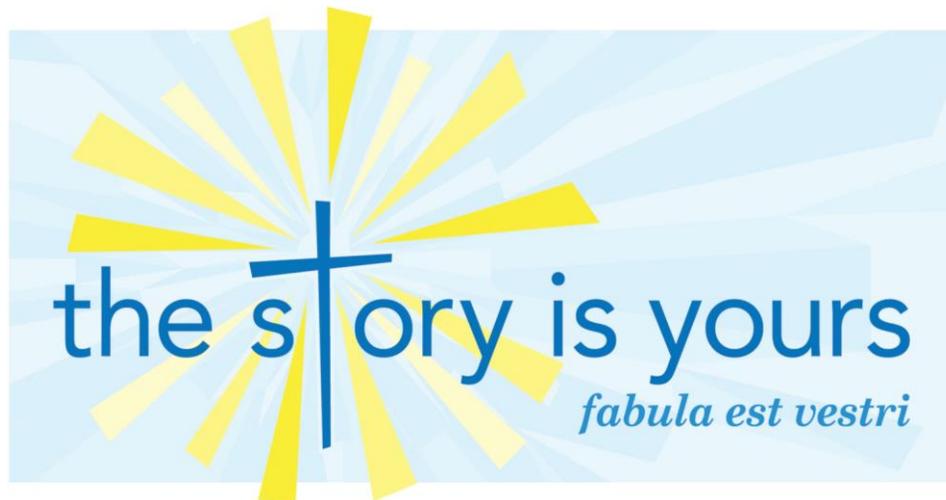
We will groan with creation!

We will sing with the trees!

We will celebrate life!

Go in peace, serve Christ, care for the Earth.

Thanks be to God! We will!



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