

The Gift of Creation



“the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations”

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October 4, 2020

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Gathering Video “Chief Seattle’s Letter” Narrated by Carol & Haley Schierlmann

Prelude “God So Loved the World” Annette Nolan

Pastoral Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Come, let us dwell in God’s good creation.

Let us dwell in God’s masterpiece.

Come, because the earth is the Lord’s,
and God’s earth is our home.

C: We live in God’s world; we are not alone.

**We share this life with the heavens and the earth,
with trees and grasses, with fish, birds, and animals,
with minerals and creatures of every form,
and with all our brothers and sisters.**

L: God is good and everything God creates is good.

God is love and everything God creates is love’s fruit.

Let us worship our loving Creator!

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Confession and Forgiveness

P: God of all creation:

On the first day you made day and night.

C: Forgive us for taking for granted the dependable patterns of your world. Open our eyes to see the beauty of the cosmos you created as our home.

P: On the second day, you made the sky.

C: Forgive us for polluting the air.

Help us see how best to restore and renew your creation.

P: On the third day you made the seas and plants.

C: Forgive us for spoiling the seas.

Give us resolve to change our hurtful habits.

P: On the fourth day you made the sun and moon.

C: Forgive us for failing to pause in praise of their splendor.

Open our lips so that we will sing your praise.

P: On the fifth day you made swarms of living creatures.

- C: Forgive us for seeing their value only in terms of serving our interests. Give us new opportunities to delight in their beauty and diversity.**
- P: On the sixth day you made humankind in your image.
- C: Forgive us for denying dignity to all your people.**
Work through us until all know their worth as your creatures.
- P: On the seventh day you rested.
- C: Forgive us for failing to take joy in our rest.**
Help us enter your rhythm of rest, even in this day of worship.
- P: Through Christ, our Lord, firstborn of all creation. Amen.

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PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
 For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
 Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
 That we may live out . . . truth and justice and grace,
 Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

Prayer of the Day

L: God, we thank you for this earth, our home;
For the wide sky and the blessed sun,
For the salt sea and the running water,
For the everlasting hills and the never-resting winds,
For trees and the common grass underfoot.
We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds,
And see the splendor of the summer fields,
And taste of the autumn fruits, and rejoice in the feel of the snow,
And smell the breath of the spring.
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;
And save our souls from being so blind that we pass unseeing
When even the common thorn bush is aflame with your glory,
God our creator, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

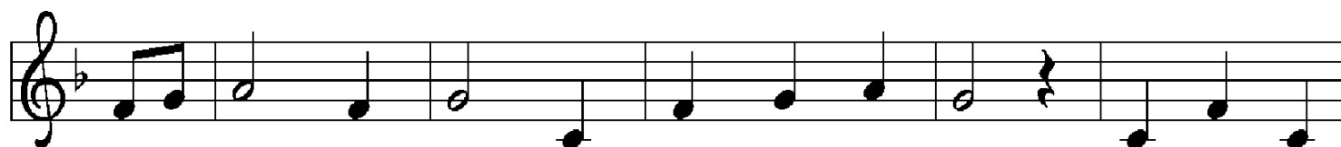
Prayer written by Walter Rauschenbusch (1861–1918)

The First Reading

Genesis 1

“Creation” by James Weldon Johnson

The Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Scripture

Revelation 22:1-5

The Message

Pastor Ward Misenheimer

Song of the Day

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Annette Nolan

A New Creed (1968)

We are not alone,
we live in God’s world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

(The United Church of Canada. 1968; rev. 1980, 1995)

Prayers of the Faithful

L: God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen: Your great love has placed us in your creation, and you commanded us to care for it. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace. Let us be the change we pray for . . . bringing about an ecological conversion that spreads to every corner of the Earth for our sake now and for every generation which follows.

A time of silence.

L: God, in an environmental catastrophe, the people who suffer first and greatest are often the poorest of the poor. Yet we rarely hear their voices, silenced as they are by the realities of global life. For those who live in poverty and suffer the devastating effects of flooding, drought, and other environmental issues, we pray: Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

L: God, you have chosen us and called us to be a sign of your kingdom—the first fruits of a new creation—so that we can be those who reveal your reign of shalom to our broken world and bear you healing love to our neighbors near and far. We pray comfort, healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness, acceptance, and unconditional love for those people and communities we name.

We especially pray for:

- Lemont Bell
- Anne Brown
- Freda Christ
- Marie Cochran
- Paul Coleman
- Antonio Estrella
- Ann Farabee
- Emma Fettig
- Eileen Folkerth
- Jan Frick
- Dwight Hartsell
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Phyllis Lester
- Ray Matthews
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Rick Messina
- Joan Moeller
- Clyde Mullis
- Tyler Oddman
- Anita Ortiz
- Nadine Osborne
- Dot Park
- Shannon Roberson
- Hope Brown Russell and family
- Richard Schulz
- Elaine Slattum
- Mark Steele
- Mary Faith Strickland
- Jake Thrower
- David Townsend
- Herbert Watson
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Lisa Williams

- L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name (*give time for community to pray*).
- L: We give thanks for the baptism of Lily Abigail Evans today. Strengthen her with your Spirit and remind her parents, Scott and Elizabeth, of your never failing for them and their children.
- L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially . . .

Jessie Amaker, grandmother of Teleah Amaker
 Freddie Bridges, mother of Michelle Hagle
 Hal Merriott, former Advent member
 Myra Steele, sister-in-law of Jennifer Frisina
 Michael Mason, nephew of Brenda Reid

. . . By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus; we pray: Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

- L: We pray for all communities that bear the scars of racial division and the wounds of long-practiced racial policies. By the power of your Holy Spirit, give us the courage and the boldness to work for real reform and to build a more just and equitable community for all.
- L: We pray for all communities and all people who have been impacted by the devastating wildfires in California, Oregon, and Washington State. We pray for all the communities impacted by Hurricane Sally. Strengthen and protect all firefighters, first responders, and relief workers.
- L: We for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially those who find themselves on the frontlines to bring healing, comfort and care to all impacted by the coronavirus; we pray: Creator God, **hear our prayer.**
- L: God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen: you became fully human in Jesus Christ, forever affirming the goodness of your on-going creation and giving us the promise of the new creation. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

C: 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 pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

A Gaelic Blessing

L: Deep peace of the running wave to you.
 Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
 Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
 Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
 Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
 Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
 Deep peace of Christ, of Christ the light of the world to you.
 Deep peace of Christ to you.

C: Amen

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sending Song

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Advanced Bells