



# Care of Creation

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 ~ 9:30 AM**

*ALL ARE WELCOME!*



## INTRODUCTION

Today, we highlight the Care of Creation as a theme for our worship, giving thanks for the beauty, complexity, and interconnectedness of our world as a sign of God's love for us and all creatures. We are being asked to consider what challenges our creation is currently facing and what can be faithful and loving responses as people of faith. In keeping with this theme, following worship, our Adult Forum will offer the first of a two-part, two-week conversation called "Climate Change and the Christian Faith" to be led by John Gavitt.

# GATHERING

*(\*Indicates to please rise as you are able in body, mind, or in spirit.)*

## \*GATHERING MUSIC

*Holy is the Lord*

We stand and lift up our hands, for the joy of the Lord is our strength.  
We bow down and worship Him now. How great, how awesome is He.

And together we sing, ev'ry one sing. Holy is the Lord God Almighty. The earth is filled with His glory.  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty. The earth is filled with His glory. The earth is filled with His glory.

*(Repeat)*

It's rising up all around. It's the anthem of the Lord's renown.  
It's rising up all around. It's the anthem of the Lord's renown.

And together we sing, ev'ry one sing. Holy is the Lord God Almighty. The earth is filled with His glory.  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty. The earth is filled with His glory. The earth is filled with His glory.

Holy is the Lord God Almighty. The earth is filled with His glory.  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty. The earth is filled with His glory. The earth is filled with His glory.

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## GATHERING PRAYER

## WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 104: 1-6, 24-25, 31-33*

*The Congregation responds with emboldened text.*

Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, **<sup>2</sup>wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent,** <sup>3</sup>you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind, **<sup>4</sup>you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.** <sup>5</sup>You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken. **<sup>6</sup>You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.**

<sup>24</sup>O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. **<sup>25</sup>Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.**

<sup>31</sup>May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works — <sup>32</sup>who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. **<sup>33</sup>I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

*(Refrain)*

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

*(Refrain)*

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing he bled and died to take away my sin;

*(Refrain)*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

*(Refrain)*

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989.  
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## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator God, you have called us to be keepers of your earth. Through greed we have established an economy that destroys the web of life. We have changed our climate and we drown in despair. Let oceans of justice flow. May we learn to sustain and renew the life of our Mother Earth. We stand with indigenous people worldwide who are demanding restoration of their ancestral lands. We pray for our leaders, custodians of Mother Earth, that they may negotiate with wisdom and fairness. May they act with compassion and courage; and lead us into the path of justice for the sake of our children and our children's children. **Amen.**

## WORD

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

### FIRST READING

*Genesis 1*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. <sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>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."

<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup>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." <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>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. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

## **SECOND READING**

***Revelation 21:1-6a***

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
<sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Dave Young**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

***Touch the Earth Lightly***

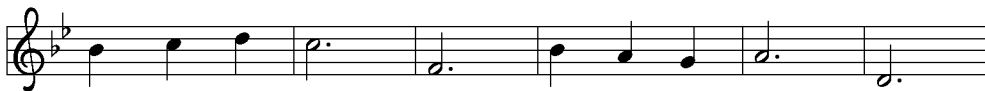
*Stanza 2 is Sung by Choir Only*



1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,  
 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,  
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,  
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,



nour-ish the life of the world in our care:  
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,  
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,  
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,



gift of great won - der, ours to sur - rend - er,  
 we who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—  
 health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,  
 teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,



trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.  
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!  
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.  
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

**OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH**

***The Apostles' Creed***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence for reflection.*

Holy One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians, that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have established a diverse and beautiful creation. Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands. Cultivate in us a sense of wonder for the world you created. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You share in our experiences and struggles. Bless all who live with any mental or physical disability. Inspire creative communities, spaces, and environments that are accessible and hospitable. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our healer, you hear us when we cry out to you. Be with those who are sick or recovering. We especially pray for those on our prayer list today. (*Names are read from the prayer list*). We also lift to you others on our hearts today, either silently or aloud now. (*Pause.*) Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

You promise eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the people of faith who have gone before us. Strengthen our trust we have in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

## MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*"Before the Waters Nourished Earth"*

*Offered by the Choir*

*Before the waters nourished earth or night imagined morning,  
a Love conceived the universe and reveled in its forming.*

*This Love remained as time revealed the loss of Eden's glory  
and, grieving, holds in memory each tragic human story.*

*Despair, so deep it bears no name, or sorrows paralyzing  
cannot revoke Love's faithful claim to dwell within our dying.*

*The Love that called creation good all goodness still is bringing.  
This Love turns death again to life and silence into singing.*

# HOLY COMMUNION

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## \*JESUS' WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day. Our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### SENDING

## \*BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy

trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## \*SENDING SONG

*For the Fruits of All Creation*

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For his gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done. In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.

In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

Music: Traditional Welsh Melody, arr. L. O. Emerson  
Text: Fred Pratt Green

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God!**

# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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