



SEASON of CREATION: TREES
~ WEEK TWO ~
LIVE STREAM WORSHIP
June 21, 2020

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

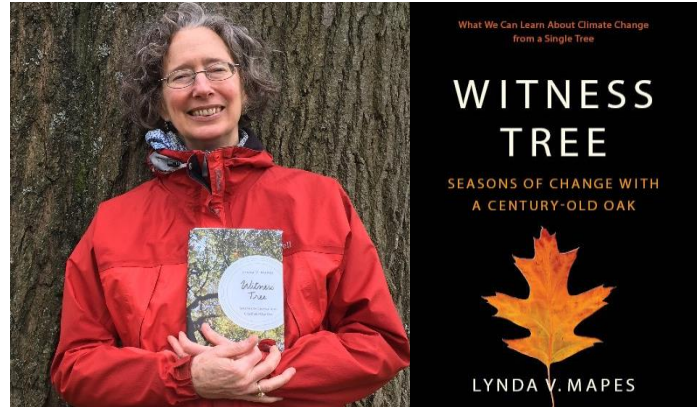
*“Wisdom is a Tree of Life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called happy.”*

Proverbs 3:18

WELCOME! *During this 3-week-long Season of Creation: TREES we're exploring the connection between forest ecology and our Christian faith.*

EMBEDDED IN OUR LITURGY is a conversation with [Lynda Mapes](#), *Seattle Times* environmental reporter and author of *Witness Tree: Seasons of Change with a Century-Old Oak*.

As a newspaper reporter, Lynda was looking for a fresh way to understand and tell the climate-change story “*beyond dueling politics or science.*” A conversation with Andrew Richardson, associate professor at Harvard University, and a subsequent invitation to come to the Harvard Research Forest for a yearlong Bullard Fellowship, gave Lynda the opportunity she craved. She writes:



“Here, at one of the world’s premier research forests, in the classic New England village of Petersham, Massachusetts, a new center of my world emerged. In this forest so like the woods I had loved as a girl, it came to me: you could tell the story of climate change—and more—through a single, beloved living thing: a tree.”

KIRKUS REVIEW OF BOOKS calls *Witness Tree* “*a textured story of a rapidly changing natural world and our relationship to it, told through the lens of one tree over four seasons... A meticulously, beautifully layered portrayal of vulnerability and loss, renewal and hope, this extensively researched yet deeply personal book is a timely call to bear witness and to act in an age of climate-change denial.*” We’re pleased to have Lynda join us during this morning’s worship service.

DURING THIS SEASON we’re paying attention to the trees we encounter each day—around our homes, in your neighborhoods and parks—and we invite you to join us! Let’s learn together more of what trees and forests have to teach us about living in community and enhancing the livability of the places where we live. Let’s get outside and use the [Tree Walking Guides](#) provided by the City of Seattle Park Department (available on the Peace website) to view specific species of trees “in person” in West Seattle parks and neighborhoods; let’s humbly open ourselves to what we might learn!

ON THE FINAL SUNDAY, JUNE 28, we’ll learn the story of how one ancient Douglas Fir inspired the writing of a song and how, as a result of that creative process, *The Tree*, has taken on a life of its own. Our Live Stream Worship will include a special VIRTUAL performance of *The Tree*, arranged and produced by Bronwyn Edwards for choir, flute, and cello, in which several Peace folk participate.

In addition, [Kjerstyn Lindgren](#), niece of Kevin and Nicole Klinemeier and graduate of Evergreen State University, will lead a 9:00am forum on tips for moving toward a zero-waste lifestyle.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

James Jelastic

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elizabeth Menstell and Tyler Coyle lead the Call to Worship this morning from Volunteer Park. Crush and rub a sprig of cedar or rosemary between your fingers and take in the aroma. Cedar is a sacred tree in this part of the world. Rosemary is a symbol of remembrance.

L Come, Creator, Mother and Father of all,
come unite with Earth community around the sacred tree of life,
and help us remember anew:
The first fresh breath of life,
the first hint of your presence,
the first song in the dawn
that opened our souls to you and taught us to celebrate.

C **Come, help us remember!**

L Come, compassionate Christ,
come unite with all creation around the ancient tree of healing,
and help us remember:
The pains you feel among the suffering poor,
the hurts you feel when Earth is wounded,
the touch of your healing hands not only for the few long ago,
but for all creations on Earth and for Earth.

C **Come, help us remember!**

L Come, Spirit of life and breath,
come unite with all that inhales oxygen from the first trees of life,
and help us remember our breath:
Our life from God, the first breath,
our life through the trees of Earth,
our life through the risen Christ,
so that we may become agents of life as we breathe with all creation.

C **Come, help us remember!**

GATHERING HYMN

As Rivers Flow from a Distant Spring

This new hymn, words by David Bjorlin and tune by William Beckstrand, will be included in the new liturgy and song supplement to Evangelical Lutheran Worship: All Creation Sings, which will be published by Augsburg Fortress this coming fall. Today, Jon Lackey provides us with a preview of the hymn, which we look forward to adding to our repertoire.

PRAAYER OF THE DAY

P The Creator be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Creator God,

C **We come together to be grounded—as trees are grounded in nourishing soil—in your creation and in your grace. Show us your presence in the trees and forests that surround us and open our eyes to the communities they foster above and below the soil. Teach us to live our lives with loving intention, recognizing our relatedness to all living things. In the name of Christ, through whom all things are reconciled, whether on Earth or in heaven. Amen.**

CONFESSION

Our confession this season is framed by words from Laudato Si', the circular letter from Pope Francis which invites all people into renewed care for our common home.

P In his beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.

C **We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air, and in all forms of life.**

P The Earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail.”

C **We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the Earth; that our very bodies are made up of her elements: we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. Forgive our forgetfulness, O God, and give us the will to treat our sister with respect, care, and gratitude.**

Silence is observed

HYMN OF HOPE

Holy One, In You Alone

Ray Makeever

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: 'We do not call this world our own, yet we will make this earth our'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line: 'home; Ho - ly One, in you a - lone.' The lyrics are written below the notes.



1 We do not claim this liv - ing word
 2 We do not claim this love of ours
 3 We do not claim these seeds we sow
 4 We do not claim our prayers for change



that we have heard is ours a - lone to give:
 can tame the pow'rs that lead our world to sin:
 will sprout and grow from our own hope - ful hands:
 can re - ar - range this world by our own will:



We on - ly know we have a
 We on - ly know we walk the
 We on - ly know we are the
 We on - ly know the ris - en



heart in which it lives.
 road where Christ has been.
 ground on which it lands.
 Christ is with us still.

Text and music copyright © 1993 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission OneLicense.net License #A-708444

ABSOLUTION

- P** Sisters and Brothers, God hears our confession and offers us a way forward. In baptism we are grounded in grace, and equipped to be the Earthkeepers God has intended from the beginning.
- C** **Creator, teach us to love Earth as our home and restore us to our calling as peacemakers, servants, and keepers. Lord, teach us to care! Amen.**



We do not call this world our own, yet we will make this earth our



home; Ho - ly One, in you a - lone.

+ WORD +

READING: Psalm 1 *The Inclusive Bible*

¹Happiness comes to those who reject the path of violence, who refuse to associate with criminals or even to sit with people who belittle others.

²Happiness comes to those who delight in the Law of YHWH and meditate on it day and night.

³They're like trees planted by flowing water— they bear fruit in every season, and their leaves never wither: everything they do will prosper.

L Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Julie Ward

INTERVIEW WITH LYNDA MAPES

Pastor Erik Kindem and Marcia Olson interview author Lynda Mapes about her book, Witness Tree: Seasons of Change with a Century-Old Oak.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Trees of the Field

Rubin/Dauermann

This hymn, based Isaiah 55, speaks of the triumphant day when the restoration of God's exiled people to their homeland is complete; a blessed event in which nature itself participates.

The song reminds us that, from God's point of view, the realm of human beings and the realm of the natural world are not separate, but rather one reality. We sing the song through twice.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff has a chord of Em above it. The second staff has chords D, G, C, G, D, and B7 above it. The third staff has a chord of Em above it. The fourth staff has chords B7, Em/B, B/A, and Em above it.

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,
and the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be - fore you.
There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

The trees of the field will clap their hands.

The trees of the field will clap their hands,

while you go out with joy.

Text: Steffi Geiser Rubin Music: THE TREES OF THE FIELD, Stuart Dauermann.
 Text and music © 1975 Lillenas Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Used by permission OneLicense.net License #A-708444

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From: *Seven Songs of Creation: Liturgies for Celebrating and Healing Earth* by Norman Habel

We believe in God who creates all things.
 who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
 who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.

We believe in God as the source of all life,
 who baptizes this planet with living water,
 who heals all the wounds of Earth.

We believe in the book of Earth, the book of life unfolding,
 the book revealing the mysteries of God's wisdom.

We believe in Jesus Christ as the revelation and Wisdom of God,
 joining the web of life as human flesh,
 Jesus is the love of God immersed in the cosmos.

We believe in an Earth community,
 a community where lives of all creatures are interconnected.

We believe in Life forever,
 empowered by the breath of the Spirit of God,
 connected with our cosmic Christ
 and celebrated by all creation.

PRAYERS

Petitions are offered that end with the refrain:

P Creator of all,
C **teach us to care.**

After all petitions have been offered:

P Jesus, Incarnate one, teach us to be at one with Earth.
C **Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the trees and the mountains. Make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit from the forests, the plains, and the winds; make our souls sensitive to the call of our kin, species in pain calling from the land, the sea, and the air. Christ, teach us to care. Amen.**

+ MEAL +

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Share a greeting of peace with those who are with you physically, and a virtual greeting with those who are part of your circle of concern.

OFFERING

Your monetary gifts support the ongoing ministry of our congregation and ELCA ministries around the world. You can give an offering today by connecting to our secure [Tithely Giving Page](#). Whatever size, your gift makes a difference—thank you for your support!

OFFERTORY

God of the Forest

TUNE: GOD OF THE SPARROW

1. God of the forest, God of the soil, God of the ground beneath us
How does the creature cry Help Us!
How does the creature cry Save!
2. God of the cedar, God of the oak, God of the towering redwood,
How does the creature cry Nurture!
How does the creature cry Praise!
3. 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?

Music: Carl F. Schalk, © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission OneLicense #A-708444, all rights reserved.

Text: Verses 1 & 2, Erik P. Kindem © 2020. Verse 3, Jaroslav Vajda, © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission OneLicense #A-708444

*Gather all who will be participating in the Holy Communion Meal,
along with the bread and wine/grape juice you've set aside.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P God, our Creator,

C through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for all in need, including the beings with whom we share this planet home. With all creation, we bless you. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Creator be with you.

C And also with you.

P Open your hearts.

C We open them to God.

P Let us give thanks to our Creator.

C It is right to join creation in thanking God.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, to give thanks to you, generous and loving God. You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, to die, and to be raised from death to redeem humankind, to renew creation, and to reconcile all born of Earth and the Spirit.

C Your presence is the living impulse in all things, the Christ deep among us, filling every element and place; filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

P Therefore with angels and archangels, saints and sinners, 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.

C Holy, holy, holy! God of all life! Earth and sea and sky are full of your presence and glorify your name! Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe,
for you entered creation's story in Jesus our brother,
embracing life and conquering death, that all creation might be restored.
In the night in which he was arrested, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his followers, saying: *(Lift bread)*

**C Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.**

P Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying: *(Lift cup)*

**C This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
poured out for you and for all for forgiveness and healing.
Do this to remember me.**

LORD'S PRAYER

D. Haas

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - low - ed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial and de -
liv - er us from e - vil, for the king - dom, the pow'r and the
glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er.

Music: David Haas, © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission OneLicense.net, License #A-708444, all rights reserved.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P As we eat this bread and drink from this cup we remember all the beings with whom we share this planet home, made sacred by the God who is in all things and in whom all things hold together. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C **God's mercy endures forever!**

Take the gifts of bread and wine/juice into your bodies now, whether you are alone or in the company of others, giving thanks for these gifts of grace!

COMMUNION SOLO

God of the Sparrow

Jim Hunt, violin

P Now may the penetrating power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind, and your body to heal your wounds, and through you bring healing to Earth.

C Amen.

+ SENDING +

THE CALL

P Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for creation
to serve by caring for all creatures.

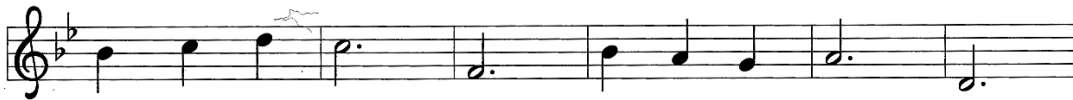
Will you care for creation?

C **We will care for the trees!**
We will nurture our planet!
We will care for one another!
We will celebrate life!

SENDING HYMN

Touch the Earth Lightly

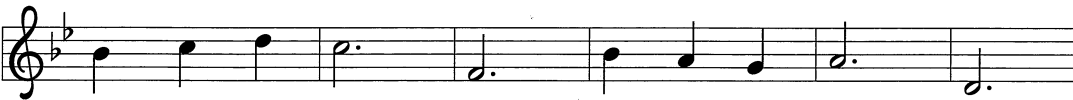
S. Murry, C. Gibson



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.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Postlude in F

Walther



*Next Sunday, June 28, we will learn the story of **THE TREE**, a song by Dana Lyons newly arranged for choir, flute, and cello by Bronwyn Edwards, and performed by musicians and choir members from Fauntleroy UCC, Peace Lutheran, and South Seattle College Choir.*

Remember: you can go to PeaceLutheranSeattle.org to download Tree Walks in your neighborhood, along with a book list and other resources for the Season of Creation.