



~ WEEK THREE ~
LIVE STREAM WORSHIP
June 28, 2020

Painting above: *Green Tree of Life* by Jordanka Yaretz. Used by permission of artist.

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; we're considering what it means to "walk in sacred manner" upon the Earth.*

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, using 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 **READ** about the forest communities that function above and below the ground, and the amazing roles trees play in making our planet home more habitable. Let's **LISTEN** to what Lynda Mapes, author of *Witness Tree: Seasons of Change with a Century-Old Oak*, has to say about trees and climate change. Let's humbly open ourselves to what we might learn.

ON THIS THIRD AND FINAL SUNDAY OF OUR SERIES, we'll be introduced to two marvelous hymns by Susan Palo Cherwien and become privy to images and art that embroider the overall message; and we'll learn how one ancient Douglas fir tree inspired the writing of a song that has taken on a life of its own. Songwriter Dana Lyons relates his story:

"A few years ago, while recovering from a back injury, I went camping in the Olympic Rain Forest. For four relaxing days I read and played my guitar at the base of an ancient Douglas fir. As I was packing up to return home, a strange thing happened—a fully formed song came flowing through me. Looking up into the giant tree, I said, *'I'll bet this is your song.'*"

As the years passed, whenever I introduced *The Tree*, I would tell audiences that the author of the song was a Douglas fir, even though I only half-heartedly believed it myself. One day on the ferry to Orcas Island, I ran into an old friend. *'Are you coming to the celebration?'* he asked. *'After a ten-year struggle, the Madrona Point burial ground has finally been returned to the Lummi people.'*"

We went together, and after the feast my friend said the tribal chief wanted to hear *The Tree*. As I sang, the elders seemed riveted to each note and word. Later, I told the story of the song's origin and that I had always wondered if it really did come from that ancient Douglas fir. *'It did,'* said the chief. *'I recognize the tune.'* He then explained, *'It is known in our tradition that each tree has its own song. Our music comes from them. We show our respect for the great trees by singing their songs and playing them on the flute. We must all work to save the ancient groves in our territory.'*"

Ever since that day, I have looked upon all living things in a new light. I humbly dedicate this book to its author, *The Tree*."

– Afterward from *The Tree*, written by Dana Lyons and illustrated by David Danioth, (Bellevue: Illumination Arts) © 2002

OUR HYMN OF THE DAY is a virtual performance of *The Tree*, arranged and produced by Bronwyn Edwards for choir, flute, and cello, in which several Peace folk participate.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

This Is My Father's World

Jon Lackey

Our new Allen Organ is now fully installed, and beginning this week some of the musical elements for worship will include our new instrument. This morning Minister of Music Jon Lackey introduces us to the organ with a prelude on the hymn, This Is My Father's World. Next week Jon will take us on a brief tour of the new organ.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Magnus, Miles, and Max Cole lead the Call to Worship this morning from Fauntleroy 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

In Sacred Manner May We Walk

This hymn by Susan Palo Cherwien, set to a tune by Thomas Pavlechko, traces its lineage to two primary sources: the Lakota teaching of the prophetic *White Buffalo Calf Woman* that human beings walk on Earth in a sacred manner; and the Biblical creation story from Genesis 1. While working toward a Master of Liberal Studies degree at Mundelein College, Ms. Cherwien took an interdisciplinary course entitled FATE OF THE EARTH, and set a goal of writing a hymn text that would reflect the key ideas of the course. She writes of the hymn:

"I began the text with the guidance that White Buffalo Calf Woman gave to the Lakota, to walk on Earth in a sacred manner, for Earth is sacred. I believe that, had the European settlers been open to the wisdom and knowledge of the Native American nations they were encountering, the Earth would not be in such danger. We can still learn from this wisdom, and so I began the hymn stanzas with the image of walking in a sacred manner. The stanzas move roughly in the order of the days of creation in the Genesis 1 creation story. Then I closed each stanza with a passage from the Bible: Exodus 3:5, Psalm 19:1, Psalm 96:12, Job 12:7, and Job 38:7. It was important for me to show that the interrelatedness and sacredness of all things are not outside of the Jewish and Christian traditions and scriptures. Now hopefully, we can sing those important thoughts into ourselves, into the world."

- From correspondence with Pastor Kindem

This morning, Minister of Music Jon Lackey introduces us to the hymn by singing the first two verses. The congregation joins in singing verses 3 – 6.

1 In sa - cred man - ner may we walk up - on the fair and lov - ing
 2 In sa - cred man - ner may we see the lu - mi - nous and lov - ing
 3 In sa - cred man - ner may we touch The su - spi - rant and lov - ing
 4 In sa - cred man - ner may we hear The pound - ing waves, the sear - ing
 5 In sa - cred man - ner may we live A - mong the wise and lov - ing
 6 In sa - cred man - ner may we walk, up - on the fair and lov - ing

earth, In beau - ty move, in beau - ty love The
 stars, with won - der and with awe be - hold Their
 green, Give hon - or and give grat - i - tude For
 fire, The rush - ing wind, the sing - ing night, The
 ones, Sit hum - bly, as at sag - es' feet, By
 earth, In beau - ty move, in beau - ty love The

liv - ing round that brought us birth. We stand on ho - ly
 ev - er new cre - a - tive pow'rs. The heav - ens show us
 shade, for bloom, for gift un - seen. The trees shall shout for
 for - est hymn, the lov - ing choir. The morn - ing stars shall
 four - legged, finned and feath - ered ones. The an - i - mals will
 liv - ing round that brought us birth. We stand on ho - ly

ground. We stand on ho - ly ground.
 God. The heav - ens show us God.
 joy. The trees shall shout for joy.
 sing. The morn - ing stars shall sing.
 teach. The an - i - mals will teach.
 ground. We stand on ho - ly ground.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Creator be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Creator God,

C **Standing on holy ground, we are grounded in your creation and in your grace. Show us your presence in the trees and forests that surround us. Open our eyes to the communities they foster above and below the soil. Open our ears so that we might hear their songs. Teach us to walk with sacred manner on Earth, living our lives with loving intention, recognizing our relatedness to all living things. In the name of the Word become flesh, through whom all things were created and in whom all things hold together. 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

Refrain

We do not call this world our own, yet we will make this earth our
home; Ho - ly One, in you a - lone.



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.

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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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Erik

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 14:1-8

The Inclusive Bible

In the final chapter of a book filled with indictments and judgments, the prophet offers a word of hope to God's people: When they own up to their misdeeds and turn back to God, God will help them flourish once more.

¹ Listen, Israel: Come back to YHWH, your God. Your corruption has been your downfall!

² Take words with you and turn to YHWH. Say to God, "Free us from our wrongdoing and accept our prayer. Instead of bulls, we offer you our lips. ³ Assyria cannot set us free. We will not ride on their horses. We will never again say "YHWH" to something our hands have made, for it is only from you that the orphaned find mercy."

⁴ "I will heal their rebelliousness [says YHWH] and love them freely, for my anger against them as subsided.

⁵ I will be as the morning dew for Israel and they will bloom like the lily.

Their roots will spread like the cedars of Lebanon.

Their branches will stretch forth.

They will be as beautiful as the olive tree and their fragrance like the Lebanon cedar.

⁷ People will once again find comfort in their shade.

They will be as abundant as the grain.

They will be as fruitful as a grapevine and they will be as renowned as the wine of Lebanon.

⁸ What more does Ephraim need with idols?

I will answer you and watch over you.

I am like a luxuriant cypress, and all your fruit comes from me."

Holy wisdom. Holy word.

C Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: Revelation 22:1-2

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

L Word of God. Word of life.

C Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

The Tree of Life

Pastor Erik Kindem

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Tree

Dana Lyons

*This virtual performance of The Tree, was arranged and produced by Bronwyn Edwards,
Music Director of Fautleroy United Church of Christ, for choir, flute, and cello.
Videography is by Kendall Ring Parton.*

There's a river flowing near me, and I've watched that river change and grow.
For eight hundred years I have lived here, through the wind, the fire, and the snow.

I see salmon return ev'ry summer, and I watch young owls learn to fly.
I have felt the claws of the grizzly, and I have heard the lone wolf cry.

I have seen great glaciers melting, I've met lightning eye to eye.
But now I hear bulldozers coming, and I know that I am soon to die.

Who will house the owl? And who will hold that river shore?
And who will take refuge in my shadow, when my shadow falls no more?

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?

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*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.

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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!**

COMMUNION SOLO

The Word of God is Source and Seed

Jon Lackey

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

Infinite Beauty

Susan Palo Cherwien
TUNE: SHADES MOUNTAIN

Our final hymn for this Season of Creation is also from the pen of Susan Palo Cherwien, who was commissioned to write it to honor Dr. Anton Armstrong, conductor of the St. Olaf Choir, for his thirty years of teaching at St. Olaf. It was first performed at the virtual Honors Convocation on May 13, 2020. We thank Ms. Cherwien for permission to use it today.

- 1 Infinite Beauty, Love that moves the heavens,
Maker of all things, present in creation,
From the beginning, all Your works reveal You,
Stirring to wonder.
- 2 Holy this garden, worthy of protection,
Blue pearl in deep space, due our true affection,
Dwelling and parent, elegant in balance,
Growing in wonder.
- 3 Sacred all creatures, marvelous companions,
Elders and teachers, all of our relations,
Rocks tell earth's story, plants reveal earth's wisdom,
Living in wonder.
- 4 Blesséd our bodies, kindred gift of starlight:
Eyes to see beauty, ears to hear the heart sigh,
Hands to give healing, hearts to bind together,
Breathing in wonder.
- 5 Infinite Beauty, Love that moves the heavens,
May our minds wisen, may our hearts awaken,
That we join all things, one and interwoven,
Singing in wonder.

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Shades Mountain Melody

Chris Kindem, Flute



*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.*