

A Special Live Stream Worship Service



Celebrating Creation September 20, 2020

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

Welcome to Live Stream worship. We're glad you've found your way to Peace!

- Pastor Erik P. Kindem, Host.

Today we join Lutheran leaders and voices from around the country in a special service celebrating the ECUMENICAL SEASON OF CREATION.

While our congregation marks the Season of Creation in the month of June, many Christian communions around the world mark the Season of Creation from September 1st, the Orthodox Day of Prayer for Creation, through October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Today's service is sponsored by [Lutherans Restoring Creation](https://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/), a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the ELCA. The service is being Live Streamed throughout the country on September 20th, and is also being Live Streamed on our congregation's YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ_kC390-EvxqHEpTQR-cxg/

+ GATHERING +

WELCOME

Phoebe Morad

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Kwame Pitts

L Come, worship the God of all Creation.

C We gather to praise the Creator, the continuous source of all living things.

L Come, worship our God who breathes life into being.

**C We praise the Creator who fashions the forests,
whose trees clean the air of this world.**

L Come, worship our God who forms life out of soil.

C We praise the Creator whose land brings nourishment.

L Come, worship our God who receives our lament in the wilderness.

C We praise the Creator whose Son brings healing to all Creation.

L Come, worship our God who sends waters flowing with life.

**C We praise the Creator whose baptism unites us to be one
in the Body of Christ with all Creation.**

GATHERING SONG

Marty Haugen

Sing Out Earth and Skies

Come, O God of all the earth; come to us, O Righteous One.

Come and bring our love to birth; in the glory of your Son.

Chorus

Sing out, earth and skies!

Sing of the God who loves you.

Raise your joyful cries,

Dance to the life around you.

Come, O God of wind and flame; fill the earth with righteousness.

Teach us all to sing your name; may our lives your love confess.

Chorus

Sing out, earth and skies!

Sing of the God who loves you.

Raise your joyful cries,

Dance to the life around you.

Come, O God of flashing light; twinkling star and burning sun.

God of day and God of night; in your light we all are one.

Chorus

Sing out, earth and skies!

Sing of the God who loves you.

Raise your joyful cries,

Dance to the life around you.

Come, O God of snow and rain; shower down upon the earth.
Come, O God of joy and pain; God of sorrow, God of mirth.

Chorus

Sing out, earth and skies!
Sing of the God who loves you.
Raise your joyful cries,
Dance to the life around you.

Come, O Justice, come, O Peace; come and shape our hearts anew.
Come and make oppression cease; bring us all to life in you.

Chorus

Sing out, earth and skies!
Sing of the God who loves you.
Raise your joyful cries,
Dance to the life around you. *(Repeat)*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Rev. Lamont Anthony Wells

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who so loves the world and all who live in it.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, Creation, and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Reconciling God,

C **we expect nature to serve our needs, and we have damaged it in the process.**

We trample every wild place and pollute your waters.

We abuse your good Earth until it cries out in pain. Forgive us, loving God.

Remind us of the covenant you made with the whole Earth.

Nourish us so we can restore your awe-inspiring Creation. Amen.

P Christ, the one who was buried into the heart of the Earth
and then raised up to new life, forgives you all your sin.

Freed from your burdens, be led by the Spirit to do God's healing work in the world.

C **Amen.**

+ WORD +

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Earth and All Kin

Rev. Dr. Leah Schade

TUNE: EARTH AND ALL STARS

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

Rebekah Bruesehoff

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with God asking a question which each generation has answer.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country?

That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die.

He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?"

And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die."

Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

L Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 145:1-8

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,

and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

Rev. Lenny Duncan

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. John Stevens

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th Chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching

heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing

THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Rev. Sarah Locke

P Loving Creator,

C All Creation comes from you – forests, lands and prairies, wild places, rivers and streams. As we bring our offerings to you, we ask that you bless them so that your kingdom comes on Earth as it is in heaven; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Emmy Kegler

We believe in the debonaire God who clothes the wildflowers dressing them so superbly that they outdo Solomon in all his glory; who is the true Friend of all creatures great and small, who feeds magpies and laughing kookaburras, and even doleful ravens and drongos.

We believe in the God of Christ Jesus the Source of abundance, full of grace and truth.

We believe in the extravagant God who turns the other cheek, goes the second mile, turns water into the best wine, brings healing with his every touch, and who welcomes a woman's of love as she fills the house with unforgettable fragrance.

We believe in the faith-full God of Jesus Christ, who sweated blood in an Olive Grove, and kept the faith to the very end.

We believe in the redeeming God who spared no cost, forgave even his brutal crucifiers, had time for a dying thief at his side, and who on the third day did a thing so prodigious that even his friends were dismayed with joy.

We believe in the God of Jesus Christ, the Source of abundance wherever we turn and no matter what we do.

Amen.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Response to the petitions:
Creator God, hear our prayer

Savanna Sullivan, Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda,
Elle Dowd, Rev. Jese Canniff-Kuhn

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.**

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin

P The blessing of Almighty God, Creator, + Redeemer, and Sustainer,
be with you now and always.

C Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Rev. John Tirro

Even the Sparrows Find a Home



Please join us next week at Peace when we resume our local Live Stream Worship.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES AT PEACE

DRIVE BY, BIKE BY, OR WALK BY RALLY SUNDAY

Drop by the Peace patio on Sunday, September 20th from 9:30am to 12:30pm for a meet and greet with your masked Sunday school teachers. We will have the supplies you need for your Zoom class plus other fun activities for you to use on your own or with your family. Bring along a nonperishable food item to help stock the new Little Free Pantry. While you are here you can check out books from the Peace Library cart. We miss you all and hope to see you even if it is from 6ft away and wearing a mask! 😊

Rally Day and God's Work Our Hands are being combined. This summer the youth with assistance from Pastor Erik and other adult volunteers constructed a Little Free Pantry that will sit on the Peace Patio. Now we need to stock it! On September 20th bring by a nonperishable food item for the pantry between 9:30am and 12:30pm. We will store the extra food inside, so that we can keep replenishing the pantry in the weeks that follow.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S CREATION CELEBRATION

Production Personnel

Worship Team: Rev. Christyn Koschmann, Rev. Sarah Locke, Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing, Rev. Jeff Schlesinger
Bulletin Editor: Rev. Sarah Locke
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Video Editors: Rev. Christyn Koschmann, Rev. Jeff Schlesinger, Rev. Sarah Locke

Thank you to those whose efforts made this worship service possible, especially:

Phoebe Morad, Executive Director of Lutherans Restoring Creation

The Reverend Kwame Pitts, Pastor of Crossroads Lutheran Church & Campus Ministries in Buffalo, NY

Marty Haugen, American composer of liturgical music

The Reverend Lamont Anthony Wells, Program Director for Campus Ministry in the ELCA (LuMin)

The Reverend Doctor Carmelo Santos, Director of ELCA Theological Diversity and Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Engagement

The Reverend Doctor Leah Schade, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary

The Reverend Doctor Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Doctor Barbara Rossing, Professor of New Testament at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Rebekah Bruesehoff, ELCA youth in New Jersey, advocate for LGBTQIA+ youth

The Reverend Lenny Duncan, Pastor of the Jubilee Collective in Vancouver, WA

The Reverend John Stevens, Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Oregon City, OR

The Reverend Emmy Kegler, Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN

Savanna Sullivan, Director of ELCA Young Adult Ministries

The Reverend Nicolette Peñaranda, Pastor of First Lutheran Church of the Trinity in Chicago, IL

Elle Dowd, candidate for ordained ministry, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

The Reverend Jesse Canniff-Kuhn, Pastor of Our Father Lutheran Church in Greensboro, NC

The Reverend Doctor Guy Irwin, President of United Lutheran Seminary in Pennsylvania

The Reverend John Tirro, musician, composer, and pastor of Worship & Campus Ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church, Tyson House Episcopal-Lutheran Campus Ministry, UT-Knoxville, TN

The Board of Directors of Lutherans Restoring Creation

Phoebe Morad, Russ Senti, Pat Almonrode, Jim Davidson, Ruth Ivory-Moore, Rev. Sarah Locke, Rev. Herb Wounded Head III, Rev. Christyn Koschmann, Larry Erickson, Heidi Ann Michelsen, Rev. Jeff Schlesinger, Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing

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Postlude Music: Sarah Goetz, organist, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Compton, IL

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