SEASON OF CREATION WEEK 2



KEEPERS OF THE GARDEN 6/18/23

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

"And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the human he had formed...to till it and keep it." Genesis 2: 8, 15

From the beginning God has entrusted the human community with tending and caring for Earth—our common home. In this time of unprecedented threats to the planetary systems that sustain life, we commit ourselves to the vocation of creation care once more. We recognize the interconnectivity and worth of all of God's glorious creation and commit ourselves to care for the land, the air, the water, and the fellow creatures with whom we share this home.

(Caring for Creation mission emphasis, Peace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting, 2022)

During this year's Season of Creation, we consider all of God's creation as a garden. The Gospel readings assigned for these three Sundays tell about Jesus' ministry to people. How do these readings, then, relate to our garden theme? People are both part of and symbolic of creation. What we experience as humans is also experienced by nature (and vice versa). People are broken and need forgiveness and healing. Likewise, the earth is broken and in need of healing. In John 20:21, Jesus says to his disciples, "As God has sent me, so I send you." Perhaps the original context of this commission can be extended to include us working for restoration of the planet. In doing so, we follow God's original mandate to tend and care for the earth. Created in the image of God, we are **Keepers of the Garden**.

+ GATHERING +

P – Presider C – Congregation L - Lector A – Assisting Minister ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal ACS – All Creation Sings

PRELUDE Jon Lackey

WELCOME

Listen to some sounds from God's garden.

CALL TO WORSHIP: ADSUM - I AM HERE!

 $(RS = Right\ Side;\ LS = Left\ Side)$

P In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life, in the name of Christ, the pulse of life, and in the name of the Spirit + the breath of life.

ALL Amen.

P Holy God, in whom everything on Earth and in the heavens is bound in perfect harmony, open our eyes to behold your creation.

ALL Adsum!

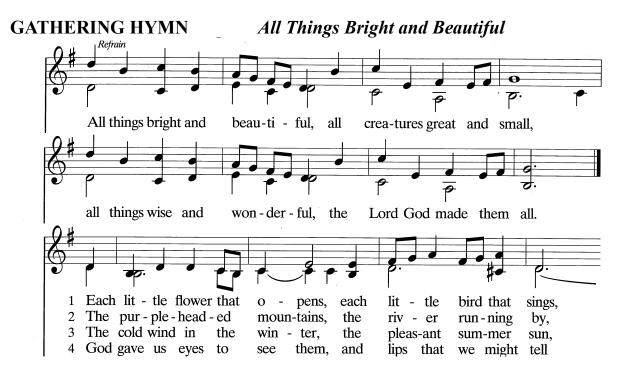
RS Incarnate Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection offer renewed life to the world, root in us a commitment equal to the challenges and joys these days bring.

ALL Adsum!

LS Creative Spirit, whose breath stirred life in the womb of this world, quicken us, body, mind, and soul, for the great work to which you are calling us.

ALL Adsum!

ALL In all things, at all times, grant that we may walk in sacred manner upon the Earth, ever conscious of our calling, ever conscious that it is your garden and we are its keepers. Adsum!





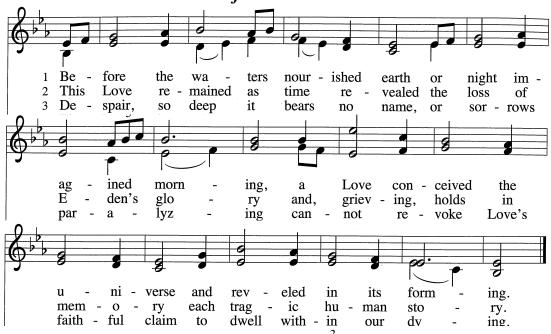
PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray. In the beginning, God, you created and it was good. We chose not to trust you, and we and the whole creation need restoration. Pour your creating Spirit into our hearts that we might proclaim with joy that your kingdom has come near through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION

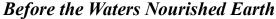
- P Many things grow in this garden—some of them are the weeds and thorns that we produce:
- C Our own attitudes toward who and what is important.
- P Sometimes other creatures in the garden are the objects of our dislike.
- C Other times it is our sense of what we do with the whole creation. We think we can use whatever we want and throw away anything that doesn't suit us.
- P We tend to ignore the fact that the air, the minerals, and water can be polluted and wasted.
- C We don't consider that the pollution we put in the air, water, and ground is the source of our very being. We poison ourselves.
- P Pardon our selfish shortsightedness.
- C Forgive our arrogance.

HYMN OF CONFESSION Before the Waters Nourished Earth ACS #1049, v. 1-3

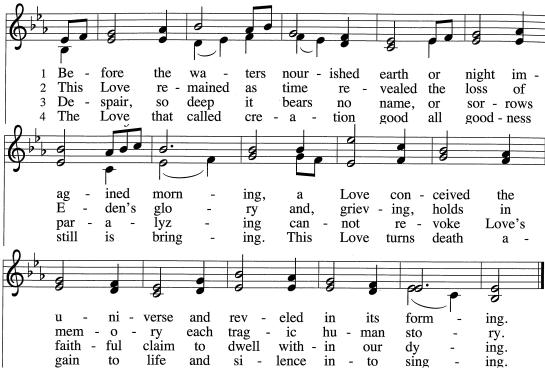


FORGIVENESS

- P In spite of the weeds and thorns, God's garden produces plentifully. God's Son entered the creation, became part of it, lived and died to show God's profound care for us and the garden.
- C In mercy given through Jesus Christ there is new possibility for the garden.
- P The grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies to provide abundant fruit. Trees take in carbon dioxide and give fresh oxygen to breathe. Blossoms become the fruit for the nourishment of our lives.
- C As people who have received such abundance from our Creator, we have a responsibility, a task. Life-giving God, help us to join you in being faithful keepers of the garden. Amen.







+ WORD **+**

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-2:4b

Scott Sunde, Larry & Janet Cruse

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At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.

- R1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ² 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.
- R2 ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
- And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

- R2 ⁶ And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."
- R1 ⁷ 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.
- R3 ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.
- R2 ⁹ And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear."
- R1 And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.
- R2 ¹¹ 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."
- R3 And it was so. ¹² 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. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.
- R2 ¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth."
- R1 And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights-- the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night-- and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.
- R3 ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.
- R2 ²⁰ 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."
- R1 ²¹ 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.
- R3 ²² God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.
- R2 ²⁴ 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."
- R1 And it was so. ²⁵ 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.
- R2 ²⁶ 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."

- R3 ²⁷ So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God God created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them,
- R2 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." ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ 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."
- R3 And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
- R1 ^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ² And on the seventh day God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that was done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation.
- R3 ⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.
- L Holy wisdom, Holy word.
- C Thanks be to God.

POEM Planted by God Reader: Janet Cruse

By Susan Palo Cherwien, Lutheran poet and musician

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Julie Ward

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN Please rise in body or spirit to receive the gospel.

Listen to the Word ACS #974

Sung first by the cantor; congregation joins the second time.



- P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 9th Chapter
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35-10:23

The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

^{10:1}Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶"See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

- L The Gospel of the Lord
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Paul Winterstein





AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From: Seven Songs of Creation: Liturgies for Celebrating and Healing Earth by Dr. Norman Habel, a Lutheran pastor, theologian, and architect of the Season of Creation.

- P Let us confess our faith.
- C 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 and habitats are interconnected.

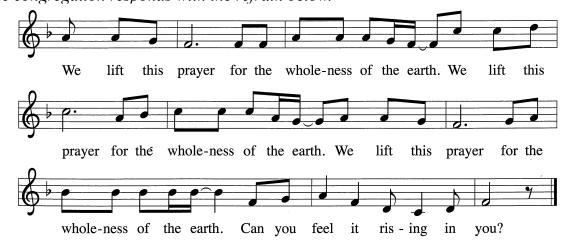
We believe in Life forever, empowered by the breath of the Spirit of God, connected with our cosmic Christ and celebrated by all creation.

We know this. And it is true.

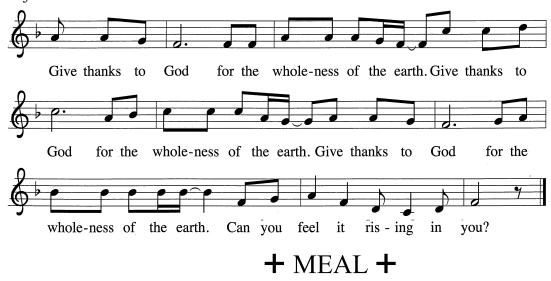
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

ACS #1067

Petitions are offered that end: "We lift this prayer to you." The congregation responds with the refrain below.



Final refrain:



THE PEACE

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

Let us share a gesture of peace with our neighbors.

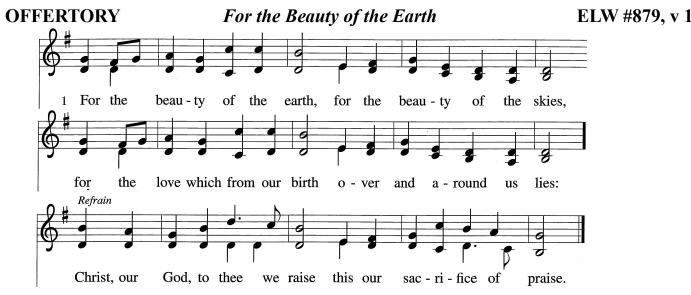
ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Your financial gifts today support the ongoing ministry of our congregation, cooperative ventures of ELCA congregations throughout Western Washington, and Evangelical Lutheran ministries around the world.

We invite you to give generously! You can place your gift in the offering plate, mail in a check, or connect to our secure <u>Tithely Giving Page</u> via this QR CODE. Whatever size, your gift makes difference—thank you for your support!



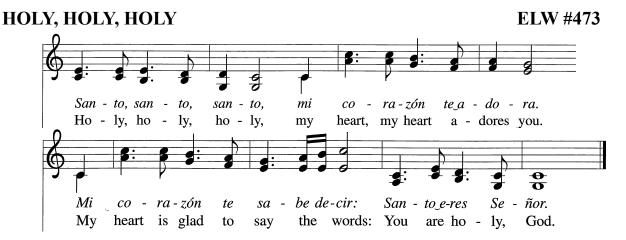


OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Let us pray. God of the Garden and giver of all gifts,
- C Bless these gifts for the care of your garden, and us to its keeping. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts!
- C We lift them to the Lord!
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



- P O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join the ancient song: The earth is full of your glory.
- C The earth is full of your glory.
- P O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song: The earth is full of your glory.
- C The earth is full of your glory.
- P We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love and for this earth. In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
 - Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This Cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
 - Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song: The earth is full of your glory.
- C The earth is full of your glory.
- P O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again: The earth is full of your glory.
- C The earth is full of your glory.
- P Amen, and amen.
- C Amen, and amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (ecumenical)

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- 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.

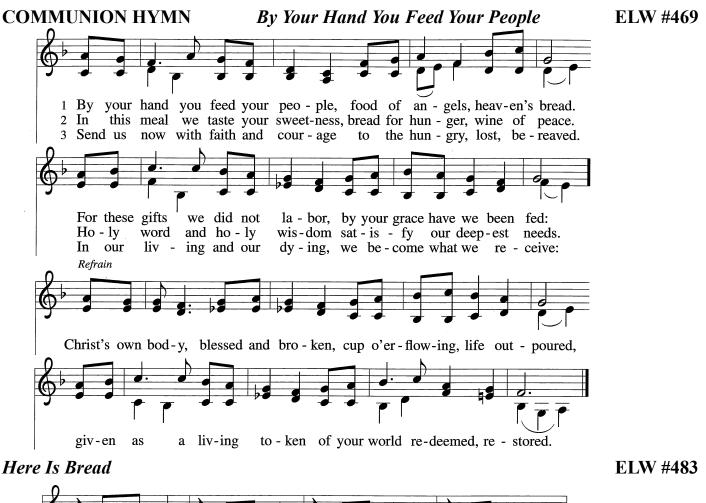
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

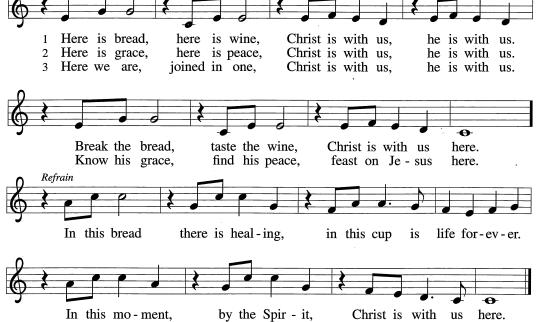
- P The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, feast at the table of life.
- C Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

We commune processionally. Extend your hands to receive bread. A gluten free wafer is also available. Both wine (dark) and grape juice (light) are available in the ceramic cups. Place your empty cup in the box at the end of the front pew on your way back. Children are welcome to receive when their parents believe they are ready, with the support of the pastor. Any who prefer a blessing may cross their hands over their chest as they come forward.



Here Is Bread



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray. Gracious God, you have fed us with the fruits of your garden, and the life of your Son, Jesus Christ. For all your gifts, thanks be to God!

C Amen.

THE CALL AND BLESSING

P Hear your call, beloved:

Support each other.

Resist the forces of complacency and denial.

Remain steadfast in your calling to be keepers of God's garden.

And may God, the Source of life

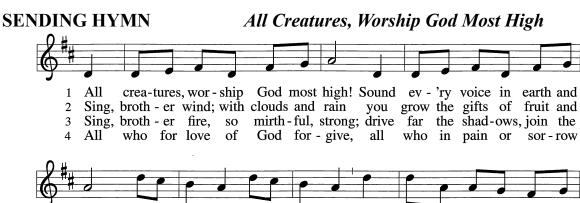
God, the Word of life

God, the Spirit of life

bless you, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ SENDING +







bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night: clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare: fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:

ELW #835



DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Tend the Garden!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE Jon Lackey

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Nicole Klinemeier, Youth Director 206-427-6496

Jon Lackey, Minister of Music Music@peacelutheranseattle.org

Find us on facebook at People of Peace Lutheran

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Sabbatical Pastor Rev. Paul Winterstein

Minister of Music Jon Lackey Liturgical Assistant Heidi Eilers Acolyte Will Ward

Lector Scott Sunde, Larry Cruse, Janet Cruse

Julie Ward Children's Sermon

Greeters Liz & Randy Hernandez Ushers Larry & Janet Cruse Liz & Randy Hernandez Altar Care Communion Assistants Liz & Randy Hernandez

Coffee Server Kathleen Keyes

Randy Hernandez, Erika Stephens Counters

Production Techs Alex Wren, Paul Bliss

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Our mission goal for 2023 anticipates receiving offering income of \$25,819 each month.

Offering Income received JUNE 2023

06/04/23 \$ 2,218.00 06/11/23 \$ 3,995.00 Electronic \$ 5,477.93 **Total** \$11,690.93

Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the larger community, and internationally through the ELCA

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

It's National Pollinator Week, so support your local pollinators! During our pollinator plants event in May, West Seattle Nursery's Kyle Henegar encouraged us to set a goal of having 30% of our home landscape plants be native to our region. Check out Xerces.org's list of Maritime Northwest native plants for pollinators and beneficial insects at http://bitly.ws/ESEb. Happy Father's Day and Happy Summer!

Pray for Creation: We ask God to trouble us with the signs of our rapidly warming climate, and then shift our thinking about how we ought to live.

SEASON OF CREATION: KEEPERS OF THE GARDEN 6/11-25

"And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the human he had formed...to till it and keep it." (Genesis 2: 8, 15) We celebrate all the wonders that God placed in the garden. However, as part of that garden, we humans are broken and need forgiveness and healing. Likewise, the earth is broken and in need of healing. As **Keepers of the Garden**, we work for restoration of the planet. Join us as we consider both the gift and the task we have as keepers.

In the narthex today, you will see a banner which is being used during our celebration of the Season of Creation. You are invited to add a leaf, a butterfly, a fish, or another "critter" on which you have responded to one or all of the following prompts: What is something in God's Garden for which you are grateful? What tip/s do you have to help others be Keepers of the Garden? In what way/s are you a Keeper of the Garden?

If you were not able to join us to watch *The Letter*, you may access it at this website: <u>Home - The Letter (theletterfilm.org)</u>. The film tells the moving story of some people whose concern for our planet led to an invitation to visit with Pope Francis following the publication of his letter Laudato Si'.

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: Sick/Recovering: Kathy Anderson; Arlene; Beth; Heidi Coy; Vonda Cuchine; Marsha Davis; Mark Engelman; Sean Fenton; Marge Flint; Jack Garrison; Caity Gerhardt; Nathaniel Gibson; Dawn Gringorten; Jaylin H.; Heather Jennings; Tony Jilek; Ken Keyes; Mike Larson; Noreen Lee; Dee Levy; Jan Madsen; Maya Marshall; Evelyn Martinez; Vicki Martinez; Chloe McDonough; Pete McIntyre; Eric, Erin, Finley McDonough; Ken McPherson; Jenn Mersing; Steve Metzler; Jim Meyer; Bill Morrell; Nora; Marianne Paulos; Paul Paulos; Michelle Pierce; Elaine Ross; Jean Sides; Aaden Smith; Leon Smith; JoAnne Spangler; Kadi Sue Sprengle; Sean Stephens; Sarah Taylor; Conrad Tollefson; Wade & Karin VanSant; Wendell & Wilson; Judy Wiggins; Inge Williams; Patti Wunder. Homebound: Jim Baker; Connie Benjamin; Lee Lamson; Dorothy Linnell

PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, in a world that can be filled with alienation and brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people

As a Christian community, we invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities into the life and mission of our congregation.

who have been marginalized by our society.

PERMISSIONS

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