

SEASON OF CREATION WEEK 1



Book of Nature: *Water's Edge/Salish Sea* June 9, 2024

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

Our themes and liturgy during this year's Season of Creation are inspired by Barbara Mahany's The Book of Nature: The Astonishing Beauty of God's First Sacred Text.

She writes: "Ancient peoples read the Book of Nature as the first sacred text, the text of all of creation, inscribed and unfurled by a God present always and everywhere." God has "infused the natural world with symbol and meaning, and if only we read what's there in the trees and the storms and the stars and the hives, we might more fully comprehend the Creator."

We hold the second sacred text, the Bible, to be inspired — that is "God-breathed."

The Book of Nature and the Book of Scripture provide us with inspiration which illuminates both. Our Lutheran sacramental tradition celebrates the coming together of these great streams of tradition: Water from the Earth, infused with God's word of promise, becomes the source of our life in Christ. Field ripened grain and grapes, infused with Christ's promise to be present, nurture God's people.

*Over these three weeks we'll explore three themes inspired by Barbara's book:
Water's Edge/Salish Sea—Wind & Weather—Celestial Spheres*

✦ GATHERING ✦

P – *Presider* C – *Congregation* L – *Lector* A – *Assisting Minister*

ELW – *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal* ACS – *All Creation Sings* GC – *Gather Comprehensive*

PRELUDE

Shall We Gather at the River

Jon Lackey

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“The Hebrew phrase Sim lev! (Pay attention!) is a call to divine attention especially. To read the Book of Nature and bump up against the One who breathed it and penned it, the one holy practice, the necessary practice, is that of paying attention.”

A Day is here!

C ***Sim lev!***

P God is here!

C ***Sim lev!***

A Awake, all creatures, awake to the light!

C ***Day is here! God is here!***

P At every moment you draw this beautiful world to yourself, O God, breathing life into all that you have made. You love your creation like a mother her children.

C **Your longing for life is relentless, like that of salmon returning to their natal stream.**

A Open our eyes to behold you, open our hands to touch you, open our minds to perceive you in the world that surrounds us, the Book of Nature, the first revelation of your Presence.

C **Breathe into us the breath of life once more! Summon us through the waters!**

P That we may behold your presence in every living thing;
that our hands may touch this world with blessing.

C ***Sim lev!* Earth is filled with God’s presence!**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Carriers bring water to the font from the Salish Sea.*

Song Over the Waters

GC #559, vs. 3-4

Refrain



God, you have moved up-on the wa-ters, you have sung in the



rush of wind and flame; and in your love, you have called us sons and



daugh-ters, make us peo-ple of the wa-ter and your name.

3. You are the breath of life, you are the
 4. Come, o - pen ev - 'ry heart, come now and

hope of the hope - less, come and fill us with
 wake us to won - der, make us ves - sels of

light and peace.
 light and peace. D.C.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY *At the font.*

P The grace, beauty, and abundance of the Creator be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Creator God, our Source and Goal, in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters, fashioning a world which bears your imprint. Everywhere we look in earth, sea, and sky, we behold your image, calling forth our wonder, our respect, and our praise. Enable us to experience your living presence as we celebrate the wonders of the world that surround us. In the name of the Human One, whose life, death, and resurrection unites all things in heaven and Earth. *Amen. Please be seated.*

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

P *“Pay attention,” God said. “Look for me in the Book of Nature; search for signs in the world which gave you birth. Plumb my presence in mountain forests, rock strewn rivers, and tide pools along the Salish Sea. Seek me among flora & fauna of earth, sea, and sky.”*

C **“Pay attention,” God said. But we haven’t paid attention.**

P Our energies have been fixed on relishing our ingenuity, boasting our superiority, exploiting Earth’s treasures to fulfill perceived needs. Along the way, we’ve missed so much, lost so much, damaged so much of God’s good creation, and for this, we are sorry.

C **We are sorry. Forgive our inattention, O God. Open the Book of Nature to us again. Give us the will to treat Earth with respect, care, and gratitude.**

HYMN OF CONFESSION *Before the Waters Nourished Earth*

ACS #1049, v. 1-3
 TUNE: ST. COLUMBA

1. Before the waters nourished Earth or night imagined morning, a Love conceived the universe and reveled in its forming.
2. This Love remained as time revealed the loss of Eden’s glory and, grieving, holds in memory each tragic human story.
3. Despair, so deep it bears no name, or sorrows paralyzing cannot revoke Love’s faithful claim to dwell within our dying.

ASSURANCE

P Hear this, all of you: From time beyond imagining, before starry cauldrons burst their bounds, seeding the universe with the elements of life, God has been loving you.

In the physics of grace, God's love will not cease—neither for you nor for this Earth. The gift of forgiveness means we are graced with the chance to begin again. *Sim lev!*

C **We pledge ourselves to pay attention. *Sim lev!***

Before the Waters Nourished Earth

ACS #1049, v. 4

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

+ SACRED TEXTS +

FIRST READING: Job 38:1, 4-11

Larry Cruse

At the end of the book of Job, after Job and his companions have argued about the cause of the great suffering Job endures, God finally speaks. These verses begin that speech, which is a grand vision of creation, describing God's ordering of the cosmos and inviting Job to marvel at its beauty.

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

⁴ 'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone ⁷ when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? ⁸ 'Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?— ⁹ when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, ¹⁰ and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, ¹¹ and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped"?"

L Holy wisdom, Holy word.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 104:24-26 *Read responsively*

²⁴ How manifold are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ **Yonder is the sea, great and wide,**

with its swarms too many to number, living things both small and great.

²⁶ There go the ships, to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

²⁷ All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.

²⁸ **You give to them, they gather it;**

you open your hand and they are filled with good things.

²⁹ When you hide your face, they are terrified;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

³⁰ **When you send forth your Spirit, they are created;**

and so you renew the face of the earth.

He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.
 He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.

P The Gospel according to John, the 7th chapter.

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

GOSPEL: John 7:37-39a

In John’s gospel, Jesus goes to Jerusalem for Jewish Festivals; in this case the Festival of the Booths, which commemorates Israel’s wilderness wanderings. For seven days during the festival, water was carried from the Pool of Siloam to the Temple as a reminder of the water God provided the people from the rock in the desert. Our service today began with water being carried from the tidal waters of the Salish Sea to our baptismal font. For thousands of generations the abundance of intertidal sea life provided a buffet of life for Salish peoples. In our time this natural abundance has greatly diminished due to overharvesting, over building, industrial pollution, sewage, and non-point pollution.

What would it take to restore the intertidal waters of the Salish Sea?

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸and let the one who believes in me drink.

As the scripture has said, “Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.” ’

³⁹Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive.

L The Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Julie Ward

MESSAGE

Janet Cruse

Piano Reflection

Evening Tide

Janet Cruse

HYMN OF THE DAY

TUNE: PRAISE, MY SOUL

Mother Earth Our Mother Birthing

1. Mother Earth, our mother birthing
 Ev’ry creature from the ground.
 Jesus too was flesh and breathing,
 Kin to all that’s green and brown.
 Celebrate with all creation:
 God has joined the web of life.

2. Sister Air, our sister lifting
 Ev’ry creature born with wing;
 Jesus shared the breath of forests,
 Breath that makes our spirits sing.
 Celebrate with all creation:
 God has joined the web of life.

Continued on next page →

3. Brother Water, brother pulsing
Deep through ev'ry vein and sea,
Jesus drank the very raindrops
For our wine and in our tea.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.

4. Father Fire, our father burning
With the sacred urge to live.
Jesus' death completes the cycle,
Bringing life beyond the grave.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 Nature, 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 the 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

We Lift this Prayer

ACS #1067

After each petition, the congregation responds with the refrain below.



We lift this prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this

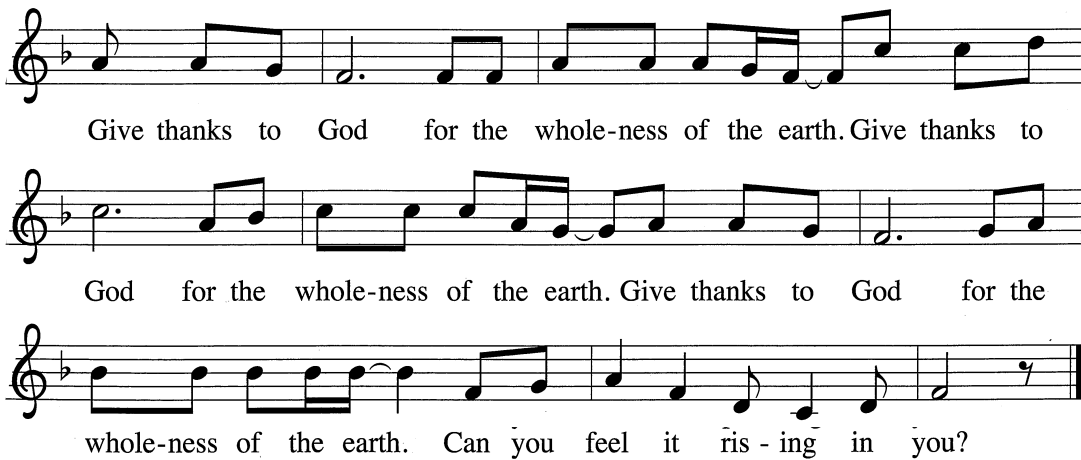


prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this prayer for the



whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?

Final refrain:



Give thanks to God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to
 God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to God for the
 whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?

✦ SACRED FEAST ✦

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you. *Share a gesture of peace with your 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 [Tithe Giving Page](#) via this QR CODE. Whatever size, your gift makes a difference—thank you for your support!



OFFERTORY

God of the Sparrow

ELW #740



1 God of the sea - star, God of the clam, God of the ti - dal
 2 God of the light - ning, God of the storm, God of the tem - pest
 3 God of the pla - nets God of the stars God of all life un -



wa - ters How does the crea - ture say Beau - ty!
 blast How does the crea - ture cry Ho - ly!
 fold - ing How does the crea - ture say Won - der!



How does the crea - ture say Grace!
 How does the crea - ture cry Praise!
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God, our Creator,

**C Yours the seas, the wind, the skies! Ours the wonder, ours the cries!
Yours to give that we receive, ours to receive that we may give. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Creator is with you.

C And also with you.

P Open your hearts!

C We open them to our Creator!

P Let us give thanks to the maker of heaven and earth.

C It is right to join with every creature in praising God.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, to give you thanks, generous and loving God. You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, 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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

Beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

C We praise you, O God.

P You entered creation's story in Jesus our brother, embracing life and conquering death, that all creation might be restored.

C We thank you, O God.

P In the night in which he shared his final meal with his friends, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:

C Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

C 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.

P With this bread and cup, O God, we remember your Son Jesus, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the Earth. Send your Spirit upon all who are gathered here and upon all creation. Satisfy the thirst of every living thing and fit us for service as stewards and keepers of all you have entrusted to us, through the same Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*ecumenical*)

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 table is set! Come to the feast 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.

COMMUNION HYMN

The Cosmic Christ

TUNE: AMAZING GRACE

1. Amazing is the Christ who died
to void all sin and curse,
Just as amazing is his life
that fills the universe.
2. The risen Christ is more than one
who waits on some far shore;
in, with and under ev'ry thing
Christ is the living core.
3. The hidden Christ sustains for us
the blueprint of the skies,
the wisdom in each fragile form,
the soul that lights the eyes.
4. The cosmic Christ moves deep below
to heal the wounds within,
when all creation groans in pain
because of human sin.
5. The cosmos hails the Christ, the One
who reconciles all things,
'til all creation rises new
with healing in her wings.
6. As Christ unites the universe,
restores this Earth once more,
a cosmic song reverberates,
a rich symphonic score.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray. 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.**

+ INTO THE WORLD +

THE CALL

P Christ calls us to be rooted and grounded in love,
to serve Earth by caring for creation
to serve by caring for all creatures, habitats, and watersheds.
Will you care for creation?

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

SENDING HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

ELW #881



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Be astonished!
- C **Thanks be to God!**


POSTLUDE

The Water is Wide

Arr. Syliva Oines



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Find us on  at People of Peace Lutheran	

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Rev. Erik Kindem
Minister of Music	Jon Lackey
Liturgical Assistant	Laura Bermes
Acolyte	Jaxson Troupe
Lector	Larry Cruse
Children’s Sermon	Julie Ward
Greeters	Helen Hundley, Jean Sides
Ushers	Kristin Gimelli Hemme, Scott Sunde
Altar Care	Will & Ben Ward
Communion Assistants	Naomi Kindem, Will Ward
Coffee Server	Creation Care Team
Production Techs	Paul Bliss, Alex Wren
Counters	Paul Bliss, Kristin Gimelli Hemme
Nursery Attendant	Heidi Coy

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

At the Congregational Meeting on February 4, we embraced a plan for funding our mission in 2024. That plan anticipates offering income averaging \$26,477 monthly. Thank you for your gifts which support God’s mission at Peace, in the larger community, and internationally through the ELCA!

Offering Income received June 2024

06/02/24	\$ 4,145.00
Electronic	\$ 839.72
Total	\$ 5,024.72

Heating campaign total received to date: \$24,625.00

SOURCES FOR TODAY'S LITURGY

Today's liturgy was created by Pastor Erik Kindem and the Peace Worship Team, with elements coming from a variety of sources. The overall inspiration is from, *The Book of Nature*, by Barbara Mahany. Other sources include: Norman Habel, creed and hymnody; *Feast of the Universe*, compiled and edited by Anne Rowthorn; and Eucharistic prayer, edited, from *All Creation Sings* and *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. See permissions below for specific information.

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

As we focus today on the Salish Sea, we note that June is Orca Action Month, a time to raise awareness about toxics threatening orcas, salmon, and people alike, become empowered to take actions promoting healthier futures for all, and learn how we each can help iconic orcas survive and thrive. You can help by volunteering for a salmon habitat restoration project or shore or water cleanup, or by faithfully advocating to elected officials. Learn more at <https://www.orcamonth.com/act>.

Pray for Creation: We pray that God fills us with reverence for creatures who live in the water and the will to amend our activities in ways that ensure their protection.

SEASON OF CREATION: JUNE 9 – 16 – 23



Our themes for this year's Season of Creation are inspired by Barbara Mahany's *The Book of Nature: The Astonishing Beauty of God's First Sacred Text*. She writes: *God has "infused the natural world with symbol and meaning, and if only we read what's there in the trees and the storms and the stars and the hives, we might more fully comprehend the Creator."*

Our Week One theme: Water's Edge, coincides with minus tides that are expected in Seattle this weekend. Bring your low-tide beach combing footwear with you to 9:30am worship, and afterwards we'll decamp to Lincoln Park Beach where we'll join naturalists from the Seattle Aquarium in exploring the tide flats! Fixings for lunch will be available down at the shore!

On Week Two we'll be joined by *The Book of Nature* author **BARBARA MAHANY**, who will be with us via ZOOM both during worship and afterward in the fellowship hall. Barbara will beam in from the Midwest to share thoughts about her book and reflections on our **Week Two theme: Wind and Weather**. We are grateful to have this chance to meet Barbara up close and personal. Five copies of Barbara's book are on order at Paper Boat Books and are expected to be available by 6/13/24.



Our theme for Week Three is *Celestial Spheres*. Sun, moon, and stars interact with Earth and shape the daily lives and rhythms of all of Earth's inhabitants in ways both profound and mundane. These "*spheres of influence*" are part the our origin story of all Earthlings. An astonishment sample from Barbara:

"Orbital truths: planet Earth orbits around the sun at 64,800 miles per hour; our solar system—one described "like a merry-go-round unhinged, [that] spins, bobs, and blinks"—is downright slo-mo in comparison, gliding a mere 43,200 miles per hour along a course east of Hercules."

NEXT WEEK: ROOTBEER FLOATS FOR FATHER'S DAY

In honor of Father's Day, root beer floats will be served downstairs after worship. Enjoy one as we gather for a zoom conversation with author, Barbara Mahany.

SEATTLE PRIDE PARADE SUNDAY, JUNE 30

We are proud to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation within a Reconciling in Christ synod - with many opportunities for you and your church family to join in and celebrate PRIDE this season!

The NW Washington Synod will be marching in the Seattle PRIDE Parade on Sunday, June 30th. There is space for 200 walkers this year. To register, email Jill (jillbossen@gmail.com) with the name of your congregation leader, their contact info AND the number of committed walkers by June 17. Details about arrival time and location will be shared with the congregation leader when available.

ORDER SYNOD PRIDE BANDANAS! This year, we have RAINBOW Bandanas with the synod logo for sale! Wear them wherever and whenever you are involved in a PRIDE event near you! They are fun, fashionable, and fabulous! Cost is \$5 per bandana and all proceeds will go to the synod LGBTQIA+ Ministry Fund. Have your congregation place an order here:

<https://forms.gle/OPM1itMCzQR4HaseA> Pick up at synod office during business hours (or at an agreed upon location & time)

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: Sick/Recovering: Cay Bell; Jan Burt; Ixchela Castaneda; Rick & Charlene Coulson; Marsha Davis; MaryAnne DeVry; Elena Evetts; Joe Flint; Bob Gaines; Verna Hernandez; Maria Iriarte; Mary Jacob; Jeff & Dolly; Mark Kindem; Ken Keyes; Nancy Krueger; Evelyn Martinez; Pete & Kelly McIntyre; Steve Metzler; Bill Morrell; Eleanor Ness; Cece Ortega; Penelope Grace; Michelle Pierce; Jill Ramsey; Joey Roberts; JoAnne Spangler; Pat Spangler; Sean Stephens; Doris Stevens; Sarah Taylor; Karin & Wade VanSant; Pam Webber; Roger Wingfield; Paul Winterstein; Inta Zagars; Audrey Zemke.

Homebound: Connie Benjamin; Marjorie Johnson; Jan Madsen

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 who have been marginalized by our society. 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.



PERMISSIONS

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.

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