

Book of Nature: Wind & Weather June 16, 2024

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

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

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

PRELUDE

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

Chris Kindem, Flute Jim Hunt, Violin

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

"The Hebrew phrase <u>Sim lev</u>! (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 a thunderstorm sweeping across the plains.
- 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!

GATHERING HYMN

Song of Waters

- Watch once more the windswept storm clouds Suddenly the sky has wings! God has come to rain among us, Giving hope to all dry things. Sing a song of splashing waters, Pulsing through the veins of Earth.
- 2. Taste the moisture of the morning, Smoother than the best red wine; Toast the lifeblood of the planet: Here's to God's wild wet design! Sing a song of flowing waters, Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

3. View anew the dark blue ocean, Whales cavorting, spraying foam; God at play with deep sea monsters, Feeling very much at home. Sing a song of laughing waters, Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

TUNE: REGENT SQUARE

4. Feel the breath of God move softly, Gentle mists that brush the skin; Earth is breathing God's own spirit, Life renewed from deep within. Sing a song of living waters, Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- 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 At the font.

- 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

- 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 28:20-27 The Inclusive Bible

Mary Jacob

Where can wisdom be found? According to the poet in Job, God discovered wisdom embedded in nature, even in the elements of the weather, when God was creating the cosmos.

- ²⁰ Where then does one find wisdom? Where is the place of understanding?
 - ²¹ It is hidden from the eyes of the living; it is hidden from the birds of the air.
- ²² Perdition and Death say, "Only a rumor of it has reached our ears."
 - ²³ Only God knows how to get there; for God is where it is.
- ²⁴ For the Most High looks to the ends of the earth, & sees everything under heaven all at once.
 - ²⁵ When God gave wind its movement, and measured the breadth and depth of the waters,
- ²⁶ and made the rules for rain and designed paths for lightning,
 - ²⁷ God beheld Wisdom and named it, confirmed it and tested it.
- L Holy wisdom, Holy word.
- C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 77:16-19 *Read responsively.*

- When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; the very deep trembled.
- ¹⁷ The clouds poured out water;

the skies thundered;

your arrows flashed on every side.

- ¹⁸ The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook.
- ¹⁹ Your way was through the sea, your path, through the mighty waters; yet your footprints were unseen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Please rise in body or spirit to receive the gospel. ELW #171



- P The Gospel according to Mark, the 4th chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 4:35-41

Jesus' calming of the storm on the sea reveals his power and connection to the realm of nature. The boat on the sea is a symbol of the church and invites us to trust in God's presence and wisdom amid the turbulence of climate challenges. Trusting God to be with us does not mean waiting for God to rescue us from climate breakdown. In the book of nature God reveals to us what is required in order to restore systems that are out of balance due to human actions and choices.

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, [Jesus] said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

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

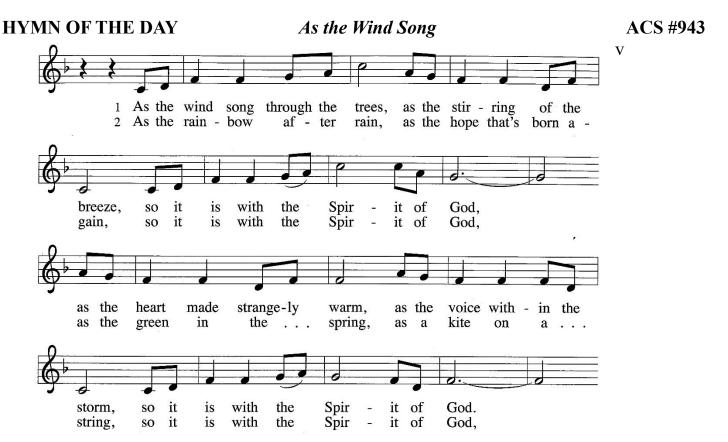
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

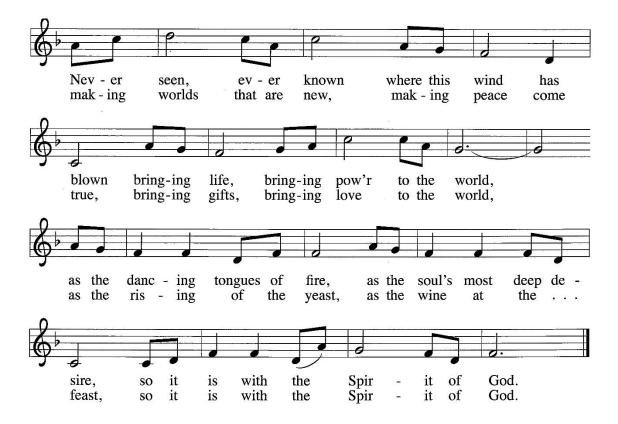
Pastor Erik

REFLECTIONS ON THE BOOK OF NATURE

Barbara Mahany

Author Barbara Mahany joins us today via ZOOM to share reflections on The Book of Nature. Following worship she'll join us again for a more conversational time in the fellowship hall.





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,

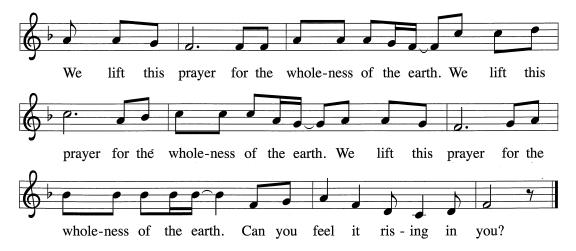
empowered by the breath of the Spirit of God,

connected with our cosmic Christ and celebrated by all creation.

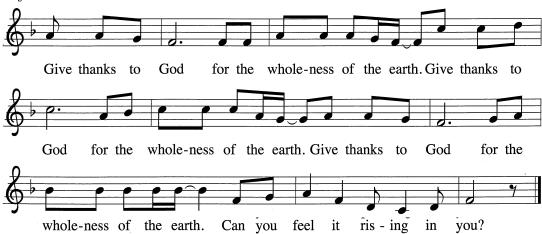
We know this. And it is true.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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



Final refrain:



+ 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 <u>Tithely Giving Page</u> via this QR CODE. Whatever size, your gift makes a difference—thank you for your support!





God of the Sparrow



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! God of all life! Earth and sea and sky are full of your presence and glorify your name.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- 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:
- 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.



Continued on next page ——

ELW #396



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!



God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

ELW #400



DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Be astonished!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Passacaglia

C.F. Bach

+ + +

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Find us on facebook at People of Peace Lutheran

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor Rev. Erik Kindem

Minister of Music Jon Lackey Liturgical Assistant Heidi Eilers

Acolyte Mateo Leon-Stephens

Lector Mary Jacob Children's Sermon Pastor Erik

Greeters Corinne Otakie, Shannon Williams

Ushers John & Debi Flint Altar Care Kathleen Keyes

Communion Assistants Kathleen Keyes, Barbara Hillier

Coffee Server Creation Care Team
Production Techs Joey DiJulio, Alex Wren
Counters Joey DiJulio, Erika Stephens

Nursery Attendant Heidi Coy

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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 06/09/24 \$ 566.24 Electronic \$ N/A **Total** \$ 4,711.24

Heating campaign total received to date: \$24,725.00

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

It's National Pollinator Week and a great time to focus on the critical role birds play in pollination. In the continental U.S., hummingbirds are key wildflower pollinators and we're blessed to be home for both Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds. These tiny wonders love flowers with tubes, funnels and cups, and bright colors like red, yellow, and orange. Make your garden a natural feeder with native plants like Honey Coral Honeysuckle, Western Columbine, lupine and Cascade Penstemon plus salvias, fuchsia, petunias and lobelias. **Pray for Creation:** When wind whips tree branches and rain drenches the ground, we pray that we are attentive once again to the One whose presence we experience in every kind of weather.

TODAY: 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.

FAN FAREWELL OPEN HOUSE 6/20 5:30-7:00 PM

FAN is having an Open House on Thursday, June 20, 5:30-7:00pm, at FAN offices in Seattle (3720 Airport Way S, in the SEIU 6 building, free parking) to say farewell to Executive Director Elise DeGooyer as she moves on to her next chapter. On the heels of celebrating their 13th anniversary June 11, FAN is excited to welcome us to their offices for this informal event and looks toward the future together! Please RSVP to fan@fanwa.org, so there will be enough food and drink for all!

NEXT SUNDAY PASS THE HAT EARTH MINISTRY

<u>Next Sunday, June 23</u>, Keah Calluccie from <u>Earth Ministry</u> will be here to give us an update on Earth Ministry.

SEASON OF CREATION: JUNE 9 – 16 – 23

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, hymnody, and Great Thanksgiving; *Feast of the Universe*, compiled and edited by Anne Rowthorn. See permissions below for specific information.



Our themes for this year's <u>Season of Creation</u> are inspired by Barbara Mahany's <u>The Book of Nature: The Astonishing Beauty of</u> God's First Sacred Text.

Our Week One theme: *Water's Edge*, coincided with minus tides that were in Seattle last weekend and following worship we went to <u>Lincoln Park Beach</u> to join a naturalist from the Seattle Aquarium in exploring the tide flats

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





Our theme for <u>Week Three is Celestial Spheres</u>. 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 of the 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."

VBS @ HOPE LUTHERAN 6/24-28

Hope Lutheran Church has spots available at VBS June 24-28, 9-noon for kids going into 1st-5th grades. Here is the link. https://vbspro.events/p/1933a8

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! 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/QPM1itMCzQR4HaseA 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; Mike & Marsha Davis; MaryAnne DeVry; Elena Evetts; Joe Flint; Bob Gaines; Verna Hernandez; Maria Iriarte; Mary Jacob; Jeff & Dolly; Mark Kindem; Ken Keyes; Norma Knight; Nancy Krueger; Evelyn Martinez; Pete & Kelly McIntyre; Steve Metzler; Bill Morrell; Eleanor Ness; Cece Ortega; Penelope Grace; Michelle Pierce; Jill Remsey; Joey Roberts; JoAnne Spangler; Pat Spangler; Sean Stephens; Doris Stevens; Sarah Taylor; Karin & Wade VanSant; Pam Webber; Roger Wingfield; 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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