

Season of Creation 4 -Song of Creation

September 22, 2024

WELCOME

Worship leader, please introduce yourself and welcome people in person and online.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion toward all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Neighbourhood BBQ **Friday, Sept 27th at 4:30 pm.**

The Walking Group will meet at Nicholas Sheran Park on **Saturday, Sept 28th at 9 am.** This will be the final walk of the summer.

INTRODUCTION

In this fourth week in our Season of Re-Creation, we have been “humming” right along. Literally. As today our focus turns to the song of Creation, which is also God’s song. In almost every household there is music of some kind, a song where everybody sings along, each one taking their own part in the percussion the melody, the lyrics, the harmony.

And so it is with God’s household, God’s *oikos*. The mountains and the hills, the angels and songbirds, the croaking toad and howling wolves. Each one taking their part in a song of praise, in witness and the joy of God’s love for the whole of creation. Like an old Sunday School song where all God’s children have a place in the choir—the song richer and fuller with each voice—some sing low, and some sing higher, and some, like the trees of the field just clap their hands. And we are there too. The Song of Creation is gift to us from our singing God, who, as we hear in Zephaniah celebrates and sings over us in love.

We take a moment to open our hearts and minds for worship.


INVOCATION (Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)

We gather in the name of God, Creator, +Redeemer, and Breath of the Earth and all its creatures!
Praise be to the Holy Trinity!

God is sound and breath and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing;
wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.
Thanks be to God! Amen!

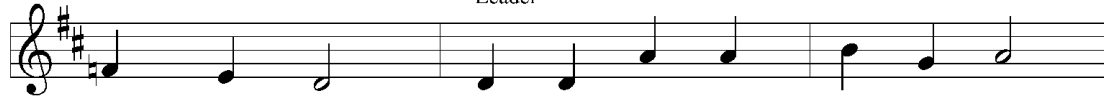
GATHERING SONG "Sing Out Earth and Skies" W&P 126 v. 1 & 2 - leader/all as shown

Leader All




1 Come, O God of all the earth: come to us, O
2 Come, O God of wind and flame: fill the earth with

Leader



Righ - teous One; come, and bring our love to birth:
righ - teous - ness; teach us all to sing your name:

All




in the glo - ry in of your Son.
may our lives your love con - fess.

Refrain



Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who



loves you! Raise your joy - ful cries!



Dance to the life a - round you!

A SONG OF CREATION (adapted from Celtic Daily Prayer: Prayers and Readings from the Northumbria Community (New York, HarperOne) 2002, p. 269-270)

Leap and spin, you powers of heaven.
Burst into explosive songs of joy,
All you companies of angels.
Let the throne of God be surrounded
With the praises of all that has life.

**The earth glories in her Maker.
Now mountain and valley glow in splendour;
grains of the field rustle and rejoice.
The sea on the shore whispers the praises of Jesus.
Rivers gurgle and wash through thirsty soil
bringing news of gladness –
God's glory fills the earth.**

The trees thunder their praises,
and loudly clap their hands.
Sound a trumpet through all the earth.
The Morning Star has risen!
Risen in splendour. Christ is among us!

**The warbling thrush and the whistling robin,
braying donkeys and howling wolves,
the percussive slap of a beaver's tail:
Creation's praise echoes on the Spirit's Wind,
joy, renewing the face of all the earth.**

The darkness is driven back.
Life abounds in the melody of God, Maker, + Risen Light, and Breath.
And we, God's people join in the song. Amen.

GATHERING SONG "Sing Out Earth and Skies" W&P 126 v. 4 & 5 - leader/all as shown

Leader - All

Come, O God of snow and rain: show - er down up -
 Come, O Jus - tice, come, O Peace: come and shape our

Leader

on the earth; come, O God of joy and pain:
 hearts a - new; come and make op - pres - sion cease:

All

God of sor - row, God of mirth.
 bring us all to life in you.

Refrain

Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who

loves you! Raise your joy - ful cries!

Dance to the life a - round you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

It is our delight to pray. Gracious God; you set the rhythms and melodies to life, and all creation sings along. Yet many times, we fail to hear. And we have drowned out the voices of the trees and the fields. Of the birds of the air and the rocks of the ground. Raise the song in our hearts.

Stir up our voices to join in the song of land and creature of water and tree; that together we might sing of your life and love for all; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.
And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 150 with "God of the Sparrow"

One Praise the LORD!

Two Praise the LORD from the heavens; the LORD in the heights!

One Praise the LORD, all his angels; praise the LORD, all his host!

Two Praise the LORD, sun and moon; praise the LORD, all you shining stars!

"God of the Sparrow" (v. 1) ELW 740 – solo (songleader) to introduce melody -

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing
stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
How does the crea - ture say Praise

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics, with a slur over the first two notes. The third staff contains the melody for the third line of lyrics, with a slur over the last two notes. The lyrics are: "1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe How does the crea - ture say Praise".

Praise the LORD, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

The LORD established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

"God of the Sparrow" (v. 2) - All

God of the earthquake, God of the storm

God of the trumpet blast

How does the creature say Woe

How does the creature say Save

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike, old and young together!
Let them praise the name of the LORD!

"God of the Sparrow" (v. 6) - All

God of the ages, God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

For the name of the Lord alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

"God of the Sparrow" (v. 3) - All

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

GOSPEL Mark 9: 30-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Light Dawns on a Weary World" ELW 726 v 1& 2 -



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Our words of faith today are taken from this year's Season of Creation Celebration Guide. This is an Affirmation of Faith that originated in India and was published in *Sinfonia Oecumenica*, a 1998 collection of liturgies from around the world.

**We have faith
in one God, one Source of all life,
one Ground of the whole Earth,
who created all things good.**

**And we have faith
in Christ, in whom we have been shown the special role of humanity to bear God's likeness
in working and caring for Creation,
in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers,
in working with these powers
for the wellbeing of life on Earth.**

**And we have faith
in God's Spirit who leads us to a meek, unselfish and compassionate lifestyle.
So that the Earth is inherited in peace,
her life is transformed for all creatures and her bounty shared justly.
So be it. Amen.**

*(Adapted from India. Source: Sinfonia Oecumenica, Gütersloher Verlag- shaus, Gütersloh 1998.
Reproduced by ECEN for Creation Time 2003)*

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS (Care of Creation, Alberta Synod, adapted)

Let us pray for land and earth, for sea and sky, for field and forest, for creatures that crawl and walk, fly and sing, and all of God's creation.

O God, you created the earth and all its inhabitants, and you declared that it is good. We rejoice, in the goodness of all that you have made. For old growth forests and polar ice caps, for the fruit fly and the spider's web. Protect mountains and valleys, animals and plants, and direct us to harmonious relationship with our siblings of creation. Lord of all, **sing over all creation.**

O God, you desire peace for all. But we are in discord and dissonant. Nation from nation. Rich from poor. Race from race. We are a humanity that separates ourselves from one another, from creature and land and water. Turn us to work for the well-being of one another and to seek the dignity in all created beings. Raise us up as advocates to speak and serve on behalf of all who are exploited and abused, to all that is commodified and sold, manipulated and ignored. Lord of all, **sing over all creation.**

O God, we have lost perspective. We are deaf to the melodies of life. Return our gaze to the evening and the dawn, to the turning of the seasons, the stages of the moon. Tune our ears to the flowers, the birds, the fish, the clouds, the streams. Remind us in our impatience of your great love, teach us the lyrics you have written across time and space, and orchestrate us for your purposes of healing and life in the world. Lord of all, **sing over all creation.**

Lord of Compassion, sing a song over the suffering. Restore the lame and the outcast. Lift up the weary and broken-hearted, comfort the lonely. Grant comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially Myrtle, Arne, Kate, Thelma, Pastor Kathy and Darcy, Margaret, Karen, Eva, Dave, Lori, Tiffany, Blair, Corrie, Delmar, Patrick, Tim, Jack and Shirley, Nicola, Reinhold and Isabel, Derek, Carter, Margaret and Clayton, Alan, Nancy, Sheila, and Cherylee, Cindy, Jody, Miriam, Pastor Erin, and those we name silently now. . . [silence]. Lord of all, **sing over all creation.**

God of community, we give thanks for all who call Good Shepherd home. This week we remember Lori Fromm and Wilf and Joan Giese and ask that they would feel your presence in their lives. We give thanks for our Soup Kitchen volunteers. Bless them and those they serve. Gracious God, continue to create in all of us a new song today and always. Lord of all, **sing over all creation.**

God of hope, let your melodies of peace and comfort be in the hearts of all who mourn. Especially we pray for Margaret Haubrich and family and friends as well as all who mourn the passing of Delmar. We pray too for Pastor Kristian Wold and his son Arik, extended family and friends and all who grieve the passing of Karen. Wrap your loving arms around them, comfort them and be a source of strength now and in the days ahead. Lord of all, **sing over all creation.**

Loving God, you are our life and our salvation. You are a Lover of all you have created. And we are safe in that love. In Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.
And also with you.

WE SHARE THE MEAL

At this time we prepare for the communion meal. We sing as we set our table.

"Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal" ELW 464 – v 1 solo, v 2-4 all -



1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God, receive the labor of our hands and the offering of our lives. Nourish us with the life of your Son, that we might be his body in the world, making known your abundant mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord, Creator be with you and all creation.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to our Creator.

Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and earth.
It is right to join creation in giving thanks and praise.

It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator. Your word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth, and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your presence is the living impulse in all things, the Christ deep among us, filling Earth—land, sea, and air; filling every element and place; filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

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.

**Holy, holy, holy, God of all life,
earth and sea and sky are full of your presence
and glorify your name. Amen.**

The bold parts which follow are spoken by the song leader

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

**Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth:
for the rain that gives life to the wheat and to the vine;
for the sun that helps the wheat and the vine to grow**

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea; for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

**Praise to you for your care of all creation,
for Jesus your Son, born a human being, to become a part of Earth;
who suffered and died and rose again to restore the wounded and broken
and who renews creation.**

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations, stirring new life born of water and grace.

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.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the whole of the cosmos.

Breathe new life into all creation; and with earth and all its creatures, with sun, moon, stars and sea;
make us agents of your healing life for all the world;
Through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit; now and
forever. **Amen**

We pray our common prayer that Christ taught us.

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.


The gifts of God for the life of all creation!
Thanks be to God!

Together let us take and eat, the body of Christ given for you
Together let us take and drink, the blood of Christ shed for you


SONG VIDEO "Touch the Earth Lightly" (From St Mark's Lutheran Church, Winnipeg)

COMMUNION SONG


"Here is Bread" ELW 483



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us,
2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us,
3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us,




he is with us. Break the bread, taste the wine,
he is with us. Know his grace, find his peace,
he is with us. We'll pro - claim till he comes



Christ is with us here. here.
feast on Je - sus here.
Je - sus cru - ci - fied.

Refrain



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is



life for - ev - er. In this mo - ment,



by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you, Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you, and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Please remain seated as we receive the blessing through this visual benediction.

Video Benediction : Earth as the Original Liturgy (TWOTP)

SENDING HYMN "Light Dawns on a Weary World" ELW 726 (v 3)



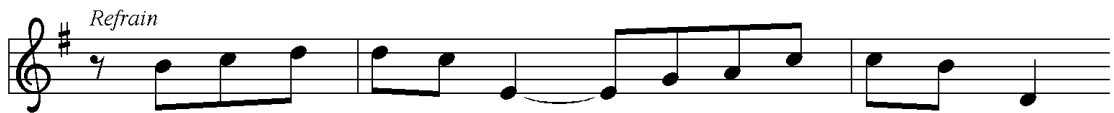
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

SENDING (adapted) (SOC)

Go now. Learn from the beasts and the flowers and trees.
 Learn from the stars and from the sun and the moon.
 Learn from the gale force winds and the light gentle breeze.
 Sing!!!!

Go in peace, serving Christ; loving all creation!
Thanks be to God! We Will!

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VIDEOS AND IMAGES

1. **“Touch the Earth Lightly”** Song video recorded and shared by St Mark’s Lutheran Church, Winnipeg.
2. **Visual Benediction: Earth as the Original Liturgy.** From Earth, Our Original Monastery video series, Christine Valters Paintner. The Work of the People. Used with permission.

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