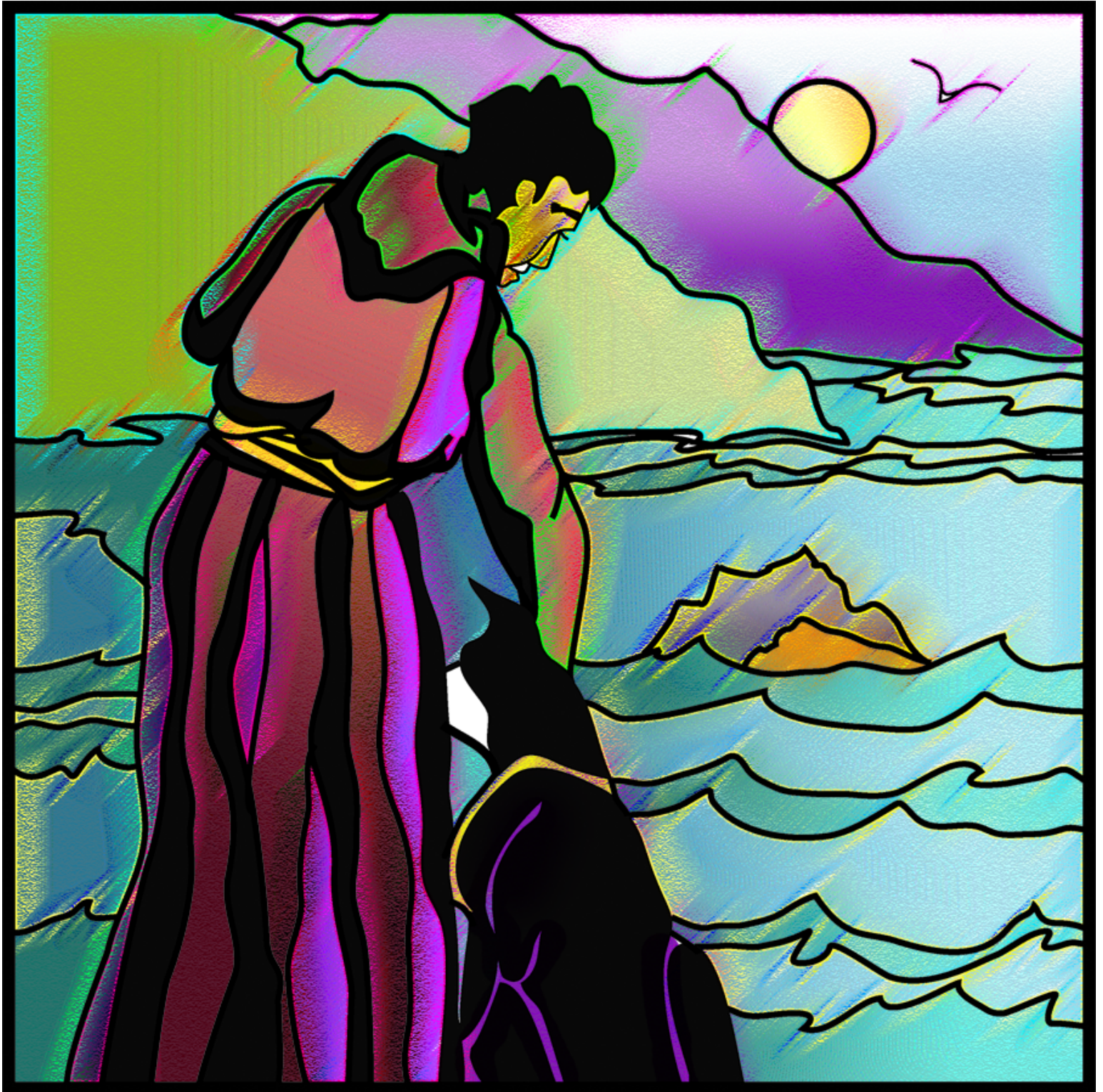


SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020  
**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF CREATION**  
ST/JOHN'S



# 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF CREATION

Sunday, October 4, 2020

9:30 am

## INTRODUCTION

*Each year from September 1 to October 4, Christian churches unite for a worldwide celebration of the Season of Creation. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common role as caretakers of God's creation. We see that our wellbeing is interwoven with its wellbeing, and we rejoice in this opportunity to care for our common home. This year, the theme for the season is "Jubilee for the Earth." We invite you to consider the integral relationship between rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social, and political ways of living. This particular year, the need for just and sustainable systems has been revealed by the far-reaching effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic. We yearn for the moral imagination that accompanies the Jubilee.*

## PRELUDE

"Nettleton"

Aaron David Miller

+ **Gathering** +

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## OPENING LITANY

We gather in the name of the Triune God:  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures.

We gather in the image of the Creator,  
**who is a community of love.**

We gather in the name of the Redeemer,  
**who reconciles all of creation.**

We gather in the presence of the Life Giver,  
**who inspires new life and renews it.**

Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound 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 (Hildegard of Bingen, 13<sup>th</sup> century).

**Amen.**



1 All crea-tures, wor - ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and  
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad - ows, join the  
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen - dor  
 grain: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,  
 throng: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in  
 grieve: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur - dens and your



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



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
 waiting to hush our final breath:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
 fair is the night that leads us home.  
 Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
 and worship God with humble heart:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
 Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite  
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
 Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

CONFESSION

We praise you God, for the Earth that sustains life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give all creatures our food in the proper time. In your Wisdom you gave a Sabbath for the land to rest. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demand for growth, and an endless cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. Humans and animals are forced to flee in search of security. We have not allowed the land to observe a Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to renew. And so we confess:

God of mercy and justice,

You tell us the land must rest, free from the burden of production.

**We confess our demand that the Earth produce beyond its limits,  
and our bondage to desire more.**

You call us to pause from sowing, pruning, and reaping in ways that destroy the soil.

**We confess our vicious consumption of food and energy.**

You assure us that we can be filled from the yield of the land.

**We confess our lack of trust that we can thrive within the Earth's limits.**

You affirm that our security is found in enough.

**We confess our lack of courage to resist the myth of endless growth.**

You tell us that the land must not be sold permanently,

because the land is Yours, and everything in it.

**We confess to thinking of creation as given, instead of a gift.**

You call us to leave enough fruit on the vine and in the fields

to feed our neighbors, animals, and replenish the Earth.

**We confess our failure to share what we receive from the Earth.**

You call us to fairness and justice.

**We confess our lack of faith, not loving you with our whole heart and  
strength and mind, or our human and non-human neighbors as ourselves.**

Turn us from fear and mistrust.

**and free us to imagine a life reconciled to the Earth and all creatures,  
through the Good News of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought,

but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit,

because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26-27).

**Amen.**

**+ Word +**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### READING

Psalm 8

A reading from the Psalms

<sup>1</sup>O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

<sup>2</sup>you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

<sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

<sup>4</sup>what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,

human beings that you should care for them?

<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less than divine;

with glory and honor you crown them.

<sup>6</sup>You have made them rule over the works of your hands;

you have put all things under their feet:

<sup>7</sup>all flocks and cattle,  
    even the wild beasts of the field,  
<sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
    and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.  
<sup>9</sup>O LORD our Lord,  
    how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## READING

Genesis 1:20-2:4a

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>20</sup>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." <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>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." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>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.

<sup>26</sup>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."

<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image,  
    in the image of God he created them;  
    male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them, 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." <sup>29</sup>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.

<sup>30</sup>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." And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON & DISCUSSION

Pastor Allison Bengfort



1 When long be - fore time and the worlds were be - gun,  
 2 The si - lence was bro - ken when God sang the Song,  
 3 The sounds of the crea - tures were one with their Lord's,  
 4 Though down through the a - ges the Song dis - ap - peared,



when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,  
 and light pierced the dark - ness and rhy - thm be - gan,  
 their har - mo - nies sweet and be - fit - ting the Word;  
 its har - mo - nies bro - ken and al - most un - heard,



and all was deep si - lence and night reigned su - preme,  
 and with its first birth - cries cre - a - tion was born,  
 the Sing - er was pleased as the earth sang the Song,  
 the Sing - er comes to us to sing it a - gain,



and e - ven our Mak - er had on - ly a dream—  
 and crea - ture - ly voic - es sang praise to the morn.  
 the choir of the crea - tures re - ech - oed it long.  
 our God - is - with - us in the world now as then.

5 The Light has returned as it came once before,  
 the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,  
 so let us all sing with one heart and one voice  
 the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

6 To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,  
 to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,  
 to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,  
 be glory forever, through life and through death.

Text: Peter W. A. Davison, b. 1936

Music: THE SINGER AND THE SONG, Peter W. A. Davison

Text and music © Peter W. A. Davison, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

We belong to the Creator in whose image we are all made.

**In God we are breathing, in God we are living, in God we share the life of all creation.**

We belong to Jesus Christ, the true icon of God and of humanity.

**In him God is breathing, in him God is living, through him we are reconciled.**

We belong to the Holy Spirit, who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.



## COMMUNION

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Creator God, you have met us in bread and wine – fruits of your plentiful earth. May the seeds of abundant life take root in us, that we and all creation may grow in love and joy.

**Amen.**

+ **Sending** +

### BENEDICTION

May God who established the dance of creation,  
who marveled at the lilies of the field,  
who transforms chaos to order,  
lead us to transform our lives and the Church  
to reflect God's glory in creation.

**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

In the Wasteland

In the wasteland there's a river bringing life to arid earth.  
Waves of justice will deliver, gracious gifts to all who thirst.  
Erode all fearful borders, live the truth that we are one.  
There is nowhere we can wander and be far away from love.

On this journey we remember there is hope in every place.  
In our searching we discover we are held in Your embrace.  
As we lose ourselves we find You, when we find You, find our soul.  
Every breath becomes a blessing, every moment we are home.

Blooming beauty, new creations, Grace is growing without end.  
Freedom flowers like a garden giving peace to give again.  
Like a river in a wasteland is the song that births new life,  
never-failing, never ceasing is the love that never dies.

Text: Alex Johnston

Tune: Nettleton/ELW 807/Come Thou Fount

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

### VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

Many liturgical elements from this service come from the  
“Season of Creation 2020 Celebration Guide: Jubilee for the Earth,” found at [seasonofcreation.org](http://seasonofcreation.org).  
Other elements come from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
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## IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Frank Ziegler, in need of healing
- † Iden Nowlin, friend of the Abudayeh family, recovering from cancer surgery
- † The families of Salwa Sous and Kevin Anderson, family members of Stephanie & Elias Abudayeh, as they mourn the loss of their loved ones
- † Rachel Cordts, recovering from cancer surgery
- † The family and friends of Pastor Bob Stout, former pastor of the Abudayeh family, who died 9/12/20
- † Cam Wise, for physical and emotional health
- † Ken Kastman, healing from broken ribs after a fall
- † Janet Rassenfoss and Alan Swanson, on the birth of their first grandchild, Molly Francis Wilka, on 7/6/20
- † The family and friends of Bob Anderson who died 6/8/20
- † The family and friends of Matt Dossa, nephew of Jim Dossa, who died 6/7/20
- † Pastor Mike Flowered and family as they mourn the death of Mike's mother, who died on 6/12/20
- † Chad Johnson, recovering from a bike accident on 5/30/20
- † The family and friends of Helene Tadros, Olga Domchenko's sister, who died 4/6/20, and especially for William Sciarrino, Helene's caretaker
- † Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire Sainson, sister of Olga Domchenko and sister's husband, in need of healing
- † Sylvia Cushing, cousin of Olga Domchenko, in need of healing
- † Doris Regan, mother of Jan Wendel & Sharon Regan, recovering from cancer surgery
- † Janet Witt, cancer diagnosis
- † Michael Rager, brother of Christi Wise, in need of healing
- † Virginia Milnikel, broken arm
- † Lani Miller
- † Doug Peters, managing cancer and recovering from surgery
- † The family and friends of Jean Olan, cousin of Bill Kaspar, who died 6/11/20
- † Linda Bengfort, mother of Pastor Allison, ongoing back pain
- † Greyson Nester
- † Margaret (Maggie) Oxland
- † Marty Anderson
- † Linda Basnik, wife of Chad Johnson, in need of healing
- † Ellie Basnik, mother-in-law of Chad Johnson, cancer diagnosis
- † Ross Johnson, brother of Chad Johnson
- † The family of Paul Escamilla, friend of Elias & Stephanie Abudayeh
- † Sydney Johnson, her work
- † Mark Voosen
- † Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- † Ed Price, friend of Sarah Rink
- † Jodi Kretzman, friend of Peter Knobel
- † Jessica Sandoval, friend of the Radde family
- † Fred Rudolphi, friend of Bill Kaspar, in need of healing
- † Steve Aschbacher, friend of Bill Kaspar, in need of healing
- † the officers of the Rogers Park police district

## SERVING TODAY

<i>Preaching &amp; Presiding Minister:</i>	The Rev. Allison Bengfort
<i>Music Director &amp; Pianist:</i>	Dr. Robert McConnell
<i>Cantor:</i>	Hannah McConnell
<i>Minister of the Word:</i>	Chris Maglocchi
<i>Prayers of the People:</i>	Chad Johnson
<i>Virtual Usher:</i>	Luke Rasmussen

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Church Picnic & Blessing of the Animals**

If weather allows, please join us on the church lawn for a church picnic this Sunday from 5:00-7:00 pm. Our gathering will include a blessing of the animals. Bring your pets or a photo/representation of a beloved animal and have them receive a special blessing from Pastor Allison. Please bring your own dinner, mask, and blanket/lawn chair to sit on. If it is raining, you can assume that the event is cancelled. If there is no rain, we look forward to seeing you and the animals of St. John's!

### **Adult Forum: Promoting Black History Education Expansion in IL**

Calling all seekers of truth and lovers of justice! Next Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am to 12 pm, Meleika Gardner will join us on Zoom to talk about her work in reforming history education in Illinois. As the owner of Evanston Live TV, Mrs. Gardner has been shining a light on justice issues in the community for years. As a board member of WE WILL (Women Empowering Women In Local Legislation), Ms. Gardner is working with legislators to advance multiple bills, including HB4954, seeking to broaden the lens on history that is offered to our children. In the work to end racial injustices in our community, the importance of understanding history cannot be emphasized enough. Please join us to learn more about this important work and discover how God might be calling you to action.

### **Affordable Housing Series**

Beginning October 18<sup>th</sup>, the St. John's Justice Team is hosting an Adult Forum Series on Affordable Housing in Wilmette. Through this series, we hope to learn more about how Wilmette has come to be so lacking in racial and economic diversity, how efforts to create more affordable housing in Wilmette have been received, and how we might work to create a more inclusive community. Gail Schechter, long-time affordable housing advocate and Executive Director of H.O.M.E. (Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly), will kick us off with a presentation on the history of housing in Wilmette. Stay tuned for the announcement of subsequent speakers in the series!

### **Saturday Contemplative Service Indoors/Online**

For the month of October, our Contemplative Service will be moving indoors to the Fellowship Hall and will continue to be available on Zoom. All participants will participate in the screening process to enter the building, wear a mask, and remain socially distanced throughout the service. Please join us either in person or online for a unique worship experience that involves silent prayer, scripture, discussion, and communion.

### **Church Office Open by Appointment Only**

Jan is beginning to work from the church office more regularly, which means that she is available to let people into the building if needed. During this time of COVID, we ask that people do not visit the building unannounced. If you need to stop by the office, please call first to make sure Jan is available and

can be ready with her mask to meet you. If you have a key to the building, please do not use it without calling Jan first. Thanks for keeping all of us safe!

### **Bible Study Time Change**

Bible Study has resumed online on Wednesdays, and the time has changed to 11:00 am-12:00 pm. Join us on the regular worship livestream Zoom link!

### **Amazon Smile**

Amazon Smile is a nonprofit founded by Amazon that donates a small percentage of your Amazon purchases to a charity of your choice. If you plan to make any orders on through Amazon, please consider using smile.amazon.com rather than amazon.com to make your purchases. There, you can search for all the same products and have access to all your prime benefits, and when you place your order, you can designate “St John Evangelical Lutheran Church” as your charity. Please note that we recommend Amazon Smile to be used only as an alternative to Amazon.com. Whenever possible, St. John’s encourages all its members to make purchases locally!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TODAY

9:30 AM	Online Worship with Children’s Message
5:00 PM-7:00 PM	Church Picnic & Blessing of the Animals

### MONDAY

4:30-6:00 pm	Worship & Music Committee Meeting Online
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### TUESDAY

7:00 PM-8:30 PM	Executive Committee Online
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### WEDNESDAY

11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Bible Study Online
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### THURSDAY

12:00-1:00 PM	Men’s Group Online
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### SATURDAY

5:00 PM	Contemplative Service Indoors/Online
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### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

9:30 AM	Online Worship with Children’s Message
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Promoting Black History Education Expansion Forum

# ST/JOHN’S

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