

1ST SUNDAY OF CREATION

Sunday, September 5, 2021

9:30 AM

INTRODUCTION

As we kick-off our five-week Season of Creation, we start with the Bible's first words: "in the beginning." As we hear the Bible's account of the creation of the cosmos, we contemplate the holy mystery of what it means to be made "in the image of God."

PRELUDE

Prelude on "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Wayne L. Wold

RINGING OF THE BELL

+ **Gathering** +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC

Sing for God's Glory

Sung by cantor.

Words by Kathy Galloway

Sing for God's glory that colors the dawn of creation,
racing across the sky, trailing bright clouds of elation;
sun of delight
succeeds the velvet of night,
warming the earth's exultation.

Sing for God's power that shatters the chains that would hold us,
searing the bleakness of fear and despair that would mold us,
touching our shame
with love that will not lay blame,
reaching out gently to find us.

Sing for God's justice disturbing each easy illusion,
tearing down tyrants and putting our pride to confusion;
lifeblood of right,
resisting evil and slight,
offering freedom's transfusion.

Sing for God's saints who have travelled faith's journey before us,
who in our weariness give us their hope to restore us;
in them we see
the new creation to be,
spirit of love made flesh for us.

GREETING

The congregation may stand.

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

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, 13th Century)

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

“Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.” With these words, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in childbirth” (Rom 8:22). And so we confess:

Jesus Christ could not find a place to lay his head. Because of our will to dominate, millions of our human family are displaced from their homes.

Many lack access to clean water, sanitation, and dignified places for personal hygiene.

Have mercy on us, for the sake of the Earth and all that is in it.

Foxes of the field and birds of the air should have a place to call home. Because we misuse the land, the soil, water and air, habitats are desecrated, and millions of species no longer have a home.

Have mercy on us, for the sake of the Earth and all that is in it.

Your promise was to be a blessing for all the peoples of the Earth. But when we exploit the gifts of creation, Indigenous lands are devastated and those who live close to the Earth lose their ways of life.

Have mercy on us, for the sake of the Earth and all that is in it.

The mustard seed is great because it provides shelter for many. But we seek security for ourselves, instead of mutual care and faithful hospitality towards our co-creatures.

Have mercy on us, for the sake of the Earth and all that is in it.

Let us remember “that we ourselves are dust of the earth” (Gen 2:7). Our very bodies are made of her elements, we breathe her sacred air, and we receive life and refreshment from her sacred waters. May we hear it as a promise and a calling.

God, who is rich in mercy, loves us even when we are dead in sin and makes us alive again with Christ. By grace you have been made whole again. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

O God, we give you thanks for your unconditional love and acceptance. Having been forgiven, turn us now from our desire to unroot ourselves from our home in the garden, and from our will to dominate your Earth. Call us again, to till and to keep. Gather us into the power of just relationships that heal and sustain. Enlighten us by your Spirit that renews the face of your Earth and safeguards a home for all. Amen.

Adapted from *Laudato Si'*, by Pope Francis.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

God, whose fingers sculpt sun and moon and curl the baby's ear; Spirit, brooding over chaos before the naming of day; Savior, sending us to earth's ends with water and words: startle us with the grace, love, and communion of your unity in diversity, that we may live to the praise of your majestic name. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

PSALM

Adapted from Psalm 84 and 24.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it!

My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it!

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it!

As they go through the valley of Baca, the valley of tears,
they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.
O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it!

A reading from Genesis.

The congregation is invited to join in the text in bold.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the 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. ³Then God said, “**Let there be light**”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “**Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.**” ⁷So 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. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “**Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.**” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then 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.**” And it was so. ¹²The 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. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And 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, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.**” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, **“Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.”** ²¹So 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. ²²God blessed them, saying, **“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”** ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And 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. ²⁵God 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.

²⁶Then 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.”**

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

²⁸God 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.”** ²⁹God 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. ³⁰And 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. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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

^{4a}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

The congregation may be seated.

Robert McConnell

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

The Play of the Godhead

Sung by cantor.

All Creation Sings 946

The Play of the Godhead



1 The play of the God-head, the Trin - i - ty's dance, em - brac-es the
2 The warm mists of sum - mer, cool wa-ters that flow, turn crys-tal as
3 In God's gra - cious im - age of co - e - qual parts, we gath-er as



earth in a sa - cred ro - mance, with God the Cre - a - tor, and
ice when the win - try winds blow. The tap - root that nur-tures, the
danc - ers, u - nit - ing our hearts. In tune with the mu - sic of



Christ the true Son, en - twined with the Spir - it, a web dai - ly
shoot grow - ing free, the life - giv - ing fruit, full and ripe on the
all liv - ing things, we join in the round of bright na - ture that



spun in span-gles of mys - t'ry, the great Three - in - One.
tree: more mys - tic and won-drous, the great One - in - Three.
rings with rap - ture and rhy - thm: cre - a - tion now sings!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: PERICHORESIS, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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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.

**In the Spirit love is breathing, in the Spirit truth is living,
the breath of God always moves us.**

We belong to the Holy Trinity, who is one in all and Three-in-One.

**In God we are all made, in Christ we are all saved,
in the Spirit we are all united.**

Together, we belong to the Earth, our common home.

The Earth that is the Lord's, and all that is in it.

By Per Harling

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The congregation may stand.

O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen: Your great love has placed us in your creation, and you commanded us to care for it. Your works declare glory and strength, and you call us to praise and reverence. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace. Creator God, **Hear our prayer.**

As we reflect upon our relationship with your creation, we know that there are many things that thwart our efforts and our responsibilities to all that you have made. For the openness to learn about environmental issues and concerns, and the courage to advocate for a protect all that has been entrusted to us, we pray. Creator God, **Hear our prayer.**

In such a great and complex world, we often feel so small and helpless, as if what we do has no impact on the rest of your creation. Yet we know that because we are created in your image, we are connected with the entirety of

creation, just as you are. For an awareness of how our own lifestyles can be modified to help protect the environment, we pray. Creator God,

Hear our prayer.

In an environmental catastrophe, the people who suffer first and greatest are often the poorest of the poor. Yet we rarely hear their voices, silenced as they are by the realities of global life. For those who live in poverty and suffer the devastating effects of flooding, drought, and other environmental issues, we pray. Creator God, **Hear our prayer.**

In recent days, even the ground under our feet has begun to tremble, reminding us that we live together in a fragile community of life. For our own community, our city and state, and for those who suffer from sickness and death, we pray. Creator God, **Hear our prayer.**

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Your prayers are invited now, either silently or aloud. (*Pause for prayers.*)

Creator God, *or* Lord, we praise you,

Hear our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

God of the sun and the moon of the mountains, deserts, and plains; God of the mighty oceans, of rivers, lakes, and streams; God of all creatures that live in the seas and fly in the air; of every living thing that grows and moves on this sacred Earth. Help us to love and respect all that you have made. Help us to care for what you have made good and holy. Give us the wisdom and the passion to change our minds and hearts and our ways. Let us be the change we pray for, bringing about ecological conversion which grows and spreads to every corner of the Earth. For our sake now, and for every generation that is to come.

Amen.

By Savanna Sullivan, The Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda, Elle Dowd, & The Rev. Jesse Canniff-Kuhn. From *Lutherans Restoring Creation: A Creation-Focused Worship Service*.

THE PEACE

If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation. One Home, One Body.

We see God around us.

We see God within us.

We give thanks to our Creator.

Let us show the caring nature you have instilled within us by greeting each other as a sign of God's justice of peace, love, forgiveness, and grace. The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.

And also with you.

You are invited to care and share peace with your neighbor by embracing those in your household and waving to other households around you. You may also speak a word of peace to the land in which you gather and the creatures who share this common home.

Adapted from *Celebrating Creation: Honoring Indigenous People*, by Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA.

+ Meal +

OFFERTORY

The congregation may be seated.

*We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's!
Gifts may be placed in the offering plate or made online at
stjohnswilmette.org/give. Thank you for your generosity!*

OFFERTORY VERSE

God of the Fertile Fields

Sung by cantor. The congregation may stand

All Creation Sings

God of the Fertile Fields



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Those worshipping online are invited to raise their bread and wine along with the pastor to be blessed.

O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.

Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm.

Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:

The earth is full of your glory:

The earth is full of your glory.

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:

The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.

In the night in which he was betrayed...
...Do this, and remember me.

Again, after supper...
...Do this, and remember me.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory:
The earth is full of your glory.

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:
The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and amen.
Amen, and amen.

*From pray, praise, and give thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings
at Font and Table, by Gail Ramshaw. Copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights
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LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION

COMMUNION

The congregation may be seated.

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

For those communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher, maintaining social distancing. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. Please step forward and then remove your mask to eat in front of the altar. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table next to you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). You may drink and then place the empty glass in the basket. Please put your mask back on before returning to your seat. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the elements will be brought to you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

How Great Thou Art

Robert A. Hobby

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The congregation may stand.

Let us pray together.

**Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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.
In the name of God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of this holy home.
Amen.

CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme. Adapted by Pastor Allison Bengfort.

SENDING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

All are invited to sing.

ELW 879

For the Beauty of the Earth



- 1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
- 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
- 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
- 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. This is the home of God.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“In Thee is Gladness” from *Orgelbüchlein*

J.S. Bach

COFFEE HOUR OUTDOORS

SERVING TODAY

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Presiding Minister:</i> | The Rev. Allison Bengfort |
| <i>Preaching Minister</i> | Robert McConnell |
| <i>Assisting Minister:</i> | Cindi Rachowicz |
| <i>Music Director & Organist:</i> | Dr. Robert McConnell |
| <i>Cantor</i> | Christina Bernardoni |
| <i>Minister of the Word:</i> | Alla Rusz |
| <i>Children's Church:</i> | Student Pastor Derek Stienmetz |
| <i>Usher:</i> | Tom Morrison |
| <i>Carillon Ringer:</i> | Susan Crist |
| <i>Altar Guild:</i> | Susan Crist |

Many liturgical elements in this service come from the
Season of Creation's *2021 Celebration Guide: A Home for All*.

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IN OUR PRAYERS

- † The family & friends of Joyce Rank, grandmother of Luke Rasmussen, who died 8/29/21
- † The family & friends of Gilbert & Eleanor Basnik, father and step-mother of Linda Basnik, who died on 8/5/21 & 8/6/21
- † Sarah Rink, for recovery from chronic knee pain
- † The family & friends of Ed Woltman, who died 4/2/21
- † Jill, Stephanie & Bill Sick, friends of Michel Hauser, in need of healing
- † The family & friends of Peter Labbe, cousin of Bill Kaspar and former member, who died 5/15/21
- † Pastor John Lang, recovering from a stroke
- † Erik & Mary Kastman, son & daughter-in-law of Ken & Diane Kastman, on the birth of a baby boy
- † Candace (Witt) & Mike Yurkonis on the birth of a baby girl
- † Alla Rusz, recovering from surgery
- † Frank Ziegler, recovering from eye surgery
- † Joanni Kric, recovering from hospitalization in Aug. 2021
- † Rachel Cordts, recovering from cancer surgery
- † Cam Wise, for physical and emotional health
- † The family and friends of Matt Dossa, nephew of Jim Dossa, who died 6/7/20
- † Sylvia Cushing, cousin of Olga Domchenko, in need of healing
- † Doug Peters, who died 11/19/20
- † Linda Bengfort, mother of Pastor Allison, eye issues
- † Greyson Nester
- † Margaret (Maggie) Oxland, sister of Lyn Brunn, who died 2/11/21
- † The family and friends of Marty Anderson, family friend of Dave & Lyn Brunn, who passed away 11/15/20
- † The family of Paul Escamilla, friend of Elias & Stephanie Abudayeh
- † Sydney Johnson, her work
- † Mark Voosen
- † Lani Miller
- † Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- † Ed Price, friend of Sarah Rink

- † Karen Brunn, daughter of Dave & Lyn Brunn, recovering from spinal cord injury
- † Dana & Alex Salazar, daughter and son-in-law of Millie Burek, on the birth of a baby daughter, Lorena
- † Family of Judi, sister of Millie Burek, who died 2/14/21
- † Stephen Tschaikowsky, son of Alla Rusz, recovering from surgery
- † The family of John Genovese, father of Courtney Radde, who died 12/17/20
- † Barry and Hope Kellman, friends of Diane Kastman, for healing for Barry and comfort for Hope
- † Norma Adkerson, stepmother of Courtney, diagnosed with COVID
- † The family of Doris Regan, who died 11/25/20
- † The family & friends of Carolyn Rasmussen, grandmother of Luke Rasmussen, who died 10/9/20
- † Art Garcia, friend of Chad Johnson, recovering from a heart attack and pneumonia
- † Jodi Kretzman, friend of Peter Knobel
- † Jessica Sandoval, friend of the Radde family
- † 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
- † The family and friends of Pastor Bob Stout, former pastor of the Abudayeh family, who died 9/12/20
- † Iden Nowlin, friend of the Abudayeh family, recovering from cancer surgery
- † Alan Williams, stepfather of Christi Wise, recovering from surgery

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Season of Creation: A Home for All?

Today we join congregations from around the world in launching this year's Season of Creation, which is focused on renewing the *oikos*, or "home," of God. The season will last from Sept. 5th through Oct. 3rd, and it will include liturgy focused on the earth as well as other creation-care activities. To read more about the Season of Creation and this year's theme, visit www.seasonofcreation.org.

Green Team Summit: Heal with Us

Join environmentally-conscious faith leaders from around the state for an online, 3-night immersive and interactive journey into healing to reconnect to our land, body, mind, spirit, and community. From walking through vividly green wetlands in Shawnee National Forest, to touring a farm, and gathering in a racial healing circle, this virtual Summit will inspire our environmental work through healing. The Summit is hosted by Faith in Place and will be held September 12-14. Register at <https://bit.ly/HealingGTS> for free today and get a free ebook, "Rooted for Healing: A Collection of Quotes."

Wednesday Bible Study Begins In-Person

Weekly Bible Study resumes for the new program year this Wednesday, September 8th at 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. We will gather in person in the Fellowship Hall wearing masks. All are welcome!

Volunteers Needed for Confirmation

Confirmation has begun at St. John's. As we begin this meaningful experience with our youth, we hope to create opportunities for them to connect with our community and hear different life experiences. Therefore, we are looking for adult volunteers to attend participate in class one or more times per year. Confirmation will meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm twice a month. If you want to support our youth ministries by volunteering or want to learn more, please reach out to Derek at derek@stjohnswilmette.com.

New Mobile App

We're excited to announce St. John's has upgraded our mobile app! Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile to replace GivePlus Mobile. You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. Search for St. John's by entering "Wilmette IL". From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method, and complete the donation. Vanco will be retiring GivePlus Mobile on September 30th, so please download Vanco Mobile before then. All current user's information will be seamlessly transferred to the new Vanco Mobile from GivePlus. If you have questions or need assistance, please call Cindi at 224-307-3513 or e-mail att41623@sbcglobal.net.

Feeling Social? Host Coffee Hour!

How wonderful it is to be together in person again! We have a lot of catching up to do with each other after being apart for so many months. Gathering after church to share a cup of coffee and a treat gives us that opportunity. Please consider signing up to host a Sunday coffee hour so we can continue this time of fellowship. Hosting involves bringing a treat/snack to share, setting up a few minutes before worship, and cleaning up after our time of fellowship. If you haven't hosted a coffee hour before, someone will be happy to guide you. Choose your Sunday by putting your name on the sign-up sheet located on the counter in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please call Jan in the church office. Let's continue to keep this time of fellowship a regular part of our Sunday morning!

Live Streaming Camera Operators Needed

As many of you already know, the cameras for the new live streaming system have been installed and the system is ready for use. The system has three cameras controlled remotely by a joystick and we need a camera operator for each Sunday service who can position the cameras and toggle between different shots. The system is a lot of fun to operate and the position offers a wonderful chance to make creative decisions about how our service will be filmed. It is our hope to get a roster of six or more individuals who would be willing to operate the system on a rotating basis on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, contact Robert at robert@stjohnswilmette.com to arrange a training session.

Habitat for Humanity

Join with the Habitat team at St. Joan of Arc parish in Evanston to help to create homes for families in need! There is one more Saturday work date scheduled: September 11. Volunteers of all skill levels welcome, 16 years of age and over. For those under the age of 18, a parent must be part of the crew as well. If you are interested in joining the work team on any of these dates, email Frank Ziegler at frank.ziegler@gmail.com

Amazon Smile

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