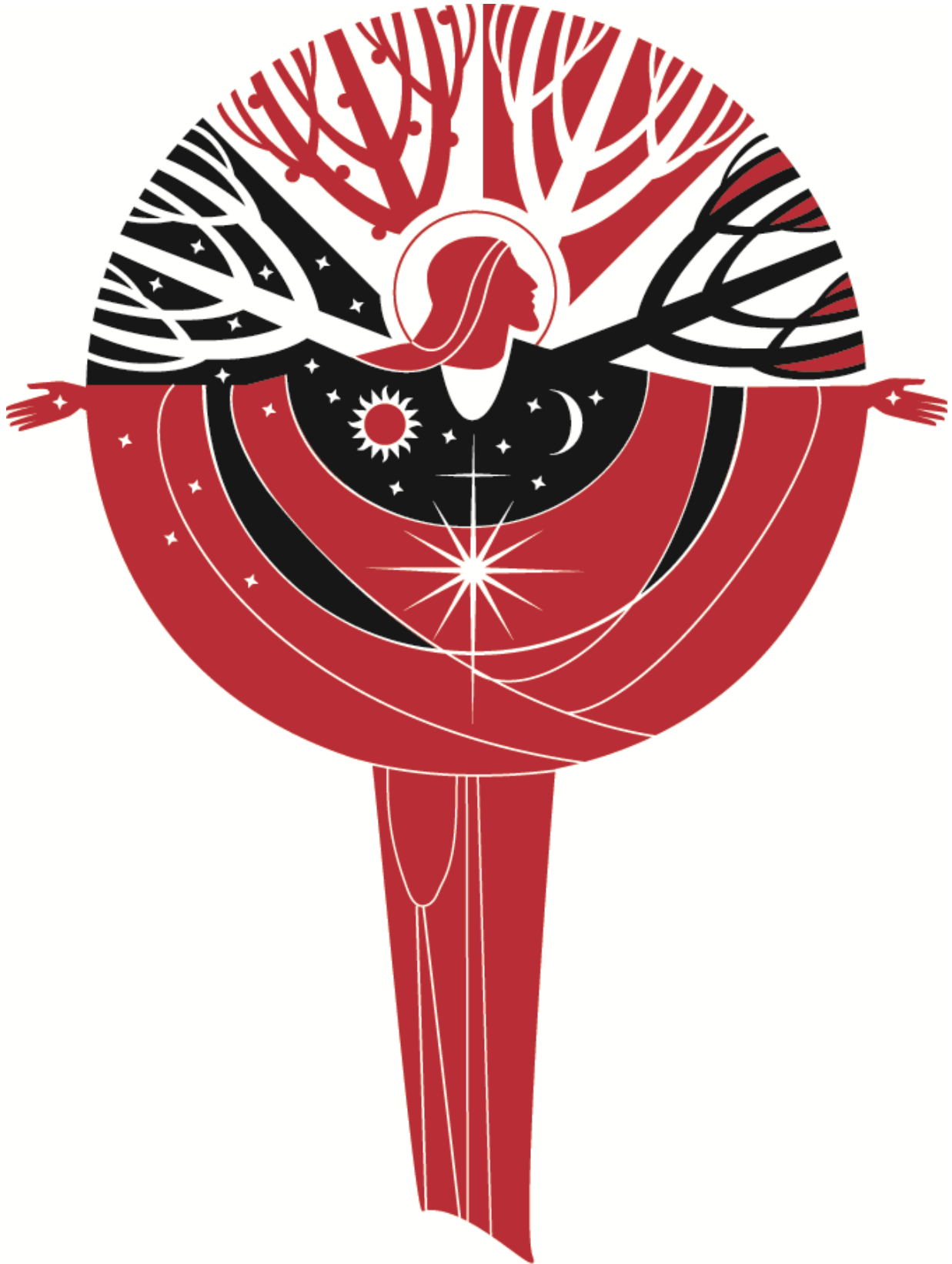


SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020
4TH SUNDAY OF CREATION
ST/JOHN'S



4TH SUNDAY OF CREATION

Sunday, September 27, 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

"Lobe den Herren"

Wayne L. Wold

+ **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, 13th century).

Amen.

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.

by John Bell, to the tune of "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

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

Revelation 8:6-13

A reading from Revelation.

⁶Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets made ready to blow them.

⁷The first angel blew his trumpet, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were hurled to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

⁸The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea. ⁹A third of the sea became blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

¹⁰The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many died from the water, because it was made bitter.

¹²The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light was darkened; a third of the day was kept from shining, and likewise the night.

¹³Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew in midheaven, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

READING

Isaiah 65:17-25

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁷For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.

¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.

¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.

²⁰No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²²They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD —
and their descendants as well.

²⁴Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent — its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

DISCUSSION & SERMON

Robert McConnell



1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de - vour the small;



guide us to jus - tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self - ish schemes.
as beasts and cat - tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re - lease,
Then en - e - mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac - cord;



till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.
the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: JERUSALEM, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Rev. Allison Bengfort

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,

or

Lord, we praise you,

Hear our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you

+ **Meal** +

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The offertory time is an opportunity to receive the gift of music and to reflect on how we might practice gratitude and generosity toward one another. With gratitude, we find solace during this time by seeing goodness in the face of despair, hope in the midst of anxiety, and joy in the midst of fear. One aspect of practicing gratitude and generosity is stewarding the financial resources in our care. If you would like to make a gift to the ministry of the church, you may visit stjohnswilmette.org/give to donate online. You may also write a check made out to St. John's Lutheran Church and mail it to 1235 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091. St. John's is deeply grateful for the generosity of our members and supporters, which allows us to be generous to others through our ministry.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Creator 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.

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.

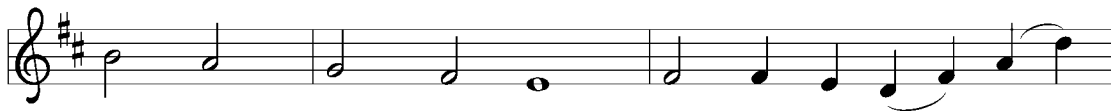
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign, ELW 434



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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.

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IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Frank Ziegler, hospitalized for tests
- † 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 and receiving treatment
- † 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 Minister:</i>	Robert McConnell
<i>Presiding Minister:</i>	The Rev. Allison Bengfort
<i>Music Director & Pianist:</i>	Dr. Robert McConnell
<i>Cantor:</i>	Hannah McConnell
<i>Minister of the Word:</i>	Alla Ruzs
<i>Prayers of the People:</i>	The Rev. Allison Bengfort
<i>Virtual Usher:</i>	Luke Rasmussen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Online Mimosa Reception for Robert

Everyone is invited to have their orange juice and champagne (or just orange juice!) ready following the worship service today for a mimosa reception and toast to Robert on the occasion of his 10th anniversary as Music Director and Organist at St. John's! Come with your favorite story or memory of Robert to tell. Congratulations, Robert!!

Church Picnic & Blessing of the Animals

Please join us on the church lawn for a church picnic next Sunday, October 4, 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. We look forward to seeing you and the animals of St. John's!

Citizens Climate Lobby Adult Forum

Today from 11:15 am to noon on our regular worship Zoom link, we will welcome Jeff Green, a representative from the Citizens Climate Lobby of Evanston, an organization that advocates for fair and effective carbon pricing. New Trier Township is considering adding a question to our ballots in April that would read: "Shall the U.S. Congress pass legislation to place a carbon fee on fossil fuel producers, where the collected revenue is given equitably to American households, incentivizing businesses and consumers to reduce climate disrupting emissions, transition to clean energy, and protect our economic well-being?" This question would gauge the level of support in our community for a national bill (namely, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act). Jeff will give a presentation on the climate crisis, the Citizens Climate Lobby, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, and the immediate opportunity for action at the New Trier Township meeting on Sept 29th. Join us today to learn more and find out how you can help promote much-needed change!

New Trier Township's Annual Meeting:

Public Discussion on Carbon Pricing Advisory Referendum

The Township Annual Meeting is scheduled for this Tuesday, September 29th at 7:30 pm via [this Zoom link](#). The agenda includes an opportunity to comment on the proposed Advisory Referendum to be added to April ballots. If approved, the referendum would read as follows: "Shall the U.S. Congress pass legislation to place a carbon fee on fossil fuel producers, where the collected revenue is given equitably to American households, incentivizing businesses and consumers to reduce climate disrupting emissions, transition to clean energy, and protect our economic well-being?" If included on the ballot, this referendum would draw attention to climate change and carbon pricing issues and would gauge the level of support in our community for a national bill (namely, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend

Act). All who have a stake in the New Trier community (whether you live in the Township or not) are welcome to participate in this important public discussion.

Thanks from Silas Noe

Thank you to those who helped Silas with his Eagle Scout Project: Bill Kaspar, Susan Crist for suggesting the idea of a stone pathway from the parking lot to the garden bench, and Alan Swanson for helping with the paperwork.

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
10:40 AM Online Mimosa Reception for Robert
11:15 AM-12:00 PM Online Citizens Climate Lobby Adult Forum

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

12:00-1:00 PM Men's Group Online
7:00-8:30 PM Rooted in Relationships Team Meeting Online

SATURDAY

5:00 PM Outdoor Contemplative Service

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

9:30 AM Online Worship with Children's Message

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