

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020
2ND SUNDAY OF CREATION
ST/JOHN'S



2ND SUNDAY OF CREATION

Sunday, September 13, 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

"O Store Gud"

Robert A. Hobby

+ **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.



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 voi - ces 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

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

Genesis 1:1-19

A reading from Genesis.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 19

A reading from the Psalms.

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²Who can detect one's own offenses?

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON & DISCUSSION

Pastor Allison Bengfort

HYMN OF THE DAY

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace, ELW 684



1 Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de -
2 Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's mys - t'ries
3 Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now de -
4 In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - 'ly



signs of far - thest space; let sun and moon and stars and
known or yet un - told; let wa - ter's frag - ile blend with
spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing like a
with a bil - lion names; let ev - 'ry life be touched by



light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.
grace un - til we praise you face to face.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: PROSPECT, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Text © 1979 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

By Margye Smith

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 Heavens Above Declare God's Praise” Scottish Psalter, 1635

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

How Great Thou Art, ELW 856



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

Text and music © 1953 S. K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road,
Pacific City OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Many liturgical elements from this service come from the
"Season of Creation 2020 Celebration Guide: Jubilee for the Earth," found at seasonofcreation.org.
Other elements come from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #37064.

SERVING TODAY

<i>Preaching & 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>	Craig Gonder
<i>Prayers of the People:</i>	Margye Smith
<i>Virtual Usher:</i>	Luke Rasmussen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Picnic & Blessing of the Grounds Next Sunday

Please join us on the church lawn for a church picnic and blessing of the grounds next Sunday, from 5:00-7:00 pm. Bring your own food and blanket/lawn chair to sit on, and enjoy seeing friendly faces in the beautiful outdoors! Masks are required whenever you are not eating, and social distancing must be maintained between all family groups in order to keep everyone safe. We look forward to seeing you.

Faith in Place Green Team Summit

Join Faith in Place September 13-17th for the first-ever virtual Green Team Summit. The annual summit is an opportunity for people of faith to come together and learn about how to actively engage in seeking justice and care for our common environment. This year, we will connect the dots between the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and racial justice through our [FREE workshops each night](#). [Register here](#) to attend one or all of the workshops!

Bible Study Resumes

Bible Study resumes online this Wednesday from 10:00-11:00 am. Join us on the regular worship livestream Zoom link!

Holy Family School Donations Needed

Holy Family School has begun the new school year with 75% of students returning in person. Cheryl Collins, CEO of Holy Family has supplied a list of needs for the students and faculty at Holy Family. If you'd like to purchase some items, please [click here](#) to be taken to the Holy Family "wedding" registry. The shipping address should default to the one indicated on the registry. Your gift will be shipped straight to the school in Chicago's North Lawndale neighborhood. Thank you for your generosity!

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!

Building Re-Entry: Plans for September

Your St. John's Re-Entry Team (Michel Hauser, Christi Wise, Al Swanson, and Pastor Allison) have been working diligently to develop protocols for safely using the church facilities during Phase IV. Beginning in September, all small groups (both church groups and non-church groups) who would like to resume meeting in person may contact Jan (jan@stjohnswilmette.com) to book space and receive training on the safety procedures. The only spaces available for gatherings are the Fellowship Hall (maximum group size of 15 people, no food consumption permitted) and the church grounds (maximum group size of 50 people, individuals may bring their own food for consumption outdoors). The weekend worship schedule will remain the same for September: Outdoor Contemplative Service at 5 pm on Saturdays and Online Worship at 9:30 am on Sundays. Thank you so much for continuing to share input on your preferences and for being patient as our team has been weighing options and developing plans. Please feel free to contact Jan or Pastor Allison if you have questions or further input.

NEW Outdoor Contemplative Service

We are now gathering for a socially-distanced, contemplative worship service on Saturday evenings at 5:00 pm in the beauty of the outdoors! The new service structure includes 10 minutes of contemplative prayer (silent, sometimes guided meditation) as well as scripture, discussion, and communion. We gather on the grass on the Park Avenue side of the church building, and attendees are asked to bring their own chairs or blankets to sit on, their own communion elements, and their own mask to be worn at all times. Upon arrival, all attendees must participate in a pre-screening process, which includes a touch-free temperature check, a verbal screening for symptoms, and collection of information for contact tracing purposes. Those who would like to participate in the service virtually may do so via our regular worship Zoom link.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

9:30 AM Online Worship with Children's Message

WEDNESDAY

10:00-11:00 AM Bible Study Online

THURSDAY

12:00-1:00 PM Men's Group

SATURDAY

5:00 PM Outdoor Contemplative Service

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

9:30 AM Online Worship with Children's Message

5:00-7:00 PM Church Picnic & Blessing of the Grounds

ST/JOHN'S

1235 Wilmette Avenue • Wilmette, Illinois 60091 • (847) 251-1730
stjohnswilmette.com • Facebook: St. John's Wilmette