

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020  
3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF CREATION  
ST/JOHN'S



# 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF CREATION

Sunday, September 20, 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

"The Ash Grove"

David Cherwien

+ **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 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!  
 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!  
 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!  
 4 Class - rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!  
 5 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!  
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!  
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!  
 Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!  
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!

*Refrain*



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987  
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## 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

### PSALM

Psalm 104

A reading from the Psalms.

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul; O LORD my God, you are very great!  
You are clothed with majesty and splendor.

- <sup>2</sup>You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak  
and stretch out the heavens like a tent.**
- <sup>3</sup>You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters above;  
you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind.
- <sup>4</sup>You make the winds your messengers  
and flames of fire your servants.**
- <sup>5</sup>You set the earth upon its foundations,  
so that from now until forever it shall never be moved.
- <sup>6</sup>You covered it with the deep as with a garment;  
the waters stood above the mountains.**
- <sup>7</sup>At your rebuke the waters fled,  
scattered by your voice of thunder.
- <sup>8</sup>They went up into the mountains and descended down to the valleys,  
to the place where you assigned them.**
- <sup>9</sup>You set the limits that they should not pass;  
never shall they return to cover the earth again.
- <sup>10</sup>You made the springs into rivers  
that flow between the mountains.**
- <sup>11</sup>All the animals drink their fill from them,  
and the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
- <sup>12</sup>Beside them the birds of the air make their nests;  
among the branches they lift their voice.**
- <sup>13</sup>From your dwelling on high, you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your works.
- <sup>14</sup>You make grass grow for the cattle, and plants to serve humankind;  
that they may bring forth food from the earth,**
- <sup>15</sup>wine to gladden human hearts, oil to make the face shine,  
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
- <sup>16</sup>The trees of the LORD are well supplied,  
the cedars of Lebanon that you planted,**
- <sup>17</sup>in which the birds build their nests,  
while the stork makes the fir trees its dwelling.
- <sup>18</sup>The high hills belong to the mountain goats,  
and the stony cliffs are a refuge for the badgers.**
- <sup>19</sup>You made the moon to mark the seasons,  
and the sun knows the time of its setting.
- <sup>20</sup>You bring on darkness that it may be night,  
in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.**
- <sup>21</sup>The lions roar for their prey  
seeking their food from God.
- <sup>22</sup>The sun rises, and they withdraw  
and lay themselves down in their dens.**
- <sup>23</sup>People go forth to their work  
and to their labor until the evening.
- <sup>24</sup>How manifold are your works, O LORD!  
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.**
- <sup>25</sup>Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,  
living things both small and great.
- <sup>26</sup>There go the ships to and fro,  
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.**

<sup>27</sup>All of them look to you  
to give them their food in due season.

**<sup>28</sup>You give it to them; they gather it;  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.**

<sup>29</sup>When you hide your face, they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

**<sup>30</sup>You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;  
and so you renew the face of the earth.**

<sup>31</sup>May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.

**<sup>32</sup>You look at the earth and it trembles;  
you touch the mountains and they smoke.**

<sup>33</sup>I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
I will praise my God while I have my being.

**<sup>34</sup>May these words of mine please God.  
I will rejoice in the LORD.**

<sup>35</sup>Let sinners be consumed from the earth and the wicked be no more.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!

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

## READING

Jonah 3:10-4:11

A reading from Jonah.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what the people of Ninevah did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night.

<sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning, ELW 723



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.





## 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

Our Calling is Clear

Come raise a new song in the day that is dawning.  
Let hearts all be cheerful and spirits unite.  
As sun rays come streaming, as fields swell with greening,  
as dewdrops lie gleaming, come taste true delight.  
We form one great chorus with flow'rs and with forests,  
Behind us before us: one song and one voice.  
One love we are sharing, one joy and one caring,  
one spirit that's daring to sing and rejoice.

This world we have plundered, so much we have squandered  
that lately we've wondered if life can endure.  
God's will is revealed now: in each failing field now,  
This earth must be healed now, our calling is clear.  
It's time we awake for our grandchildren's sake  
For the earth's not our making nor ours to deface.  
Empow'r us in duty, restoring the beauty  
that we may renew what we once have disgraced.

Our lives seem so distant from God's healing vision,  
we've so much to risk and we've so much to lose.  
We join now together and help one another  
to daily uncover the path we must choose.  
With love as our guide and with friends at our side  
and with clearness of mind may we care for the earth  
'til in good relation with all of creation  
we find our true station and find our rebirth.

#### DISMISSAL

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

#### VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

### SERVING TODAY

<i>Preaching Minister:</i>	The Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing
<i>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>	Jan Wendel
<i>Prayers of the People:</i>	Bill Kaspar
<i>Virtual Usher:</i>	Luke Rasmussen

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).  
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## IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Iden Nowlin, friend of the Abudayeh family, cancer diagnosis
- † Rachel Cordts, cancer diagnosis
- † 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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Church Picnic, Blessing of the Grounds, and Tulip Planting**

Please join us on the church lawn for a church picnic today from 5:00-7:00 pm. Our gathering will include a tour and blessing of the church grounds, including Silas Noe's Eagle Scout project and the gardening work of Susan and Buck Crist, Peter Knobel, and Gretchen Nester. We will also have the opportunity to plant tulip bulbs together! Please bring your own dinner, mask, gardening gloves and blanket/lawn chair to sit on. We look forward to seeing you.

### **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!

### **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](mailto: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  
5:00-7:00 PM Church Picnic & Blessing of the Grounds

### WEDNESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

10:00 AM-2:00 PM Quilting for Lutheran World Relief  
12:00-1:00 PM Men's Group Online

### SATURDAY

9:00 AM-4:00 PM Fall Council Huddle  
5:00 PM Outdoor Contemplative Service

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

9:30 AM Online Worship with Children's Message

## ST/JOHN'S

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