

LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF CREATION

A Service for Creation, Peace and Justice

*"Unlike carbon, our voices are the renewable resource
that can transform the nation and the world." (Creation Justice Ministries)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME /INTRO

Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples, COSSO Spiritual Formation Director

HYMN

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

UMH 147

OPENING WORDS

If we asked the animals, they would have taught us -

what the birds in the heavens have always sung.

If we listened to Earth, then Earth's voice would have taught us -

what the fish of the sea already know.

If we would take facts of the climate as signs -

we would care for sky as heaven, and trees as living things.

If we would be wise as the creatures who teach us -

we would know, we belong to the Earth, the Earth does not belong to us.

PRAYER

Dear God, deepen our friendship with Creation,
until we are living and breathing with it,
with mountains that shape the skyline, waters alive with tides,
and insects that flutter and rejoice.

**God, incarnate in the Earth,
enrich us with your wonder as creatures of your Creation. Amen.**

CONFESSION from Jeremiah 12:4

How long will the land mourn, and the grass of every field wither?
For the wickedness of those who live there
the animals and birds are swept away,
and because people said: "God is blind to our ways!"

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND FORGIVENESS

Tell a story of a ground that is holy.

Sing a song of welcome for all who have messed up.

Paint a picture of forgiveness to save us from despair.

Friends, we are forgiven even before we have fixed things.

We can be healers, for it is Jesus who says, "you're forgiven." (Luke 7:48)

Let it be so: Amen.

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Today we trust God who is Love,
Maker, Re-maker, and Sustainer of life.
God breathed life and praise into all Creation.
We trust God with us now.

Today, we trust Jesus our Friend,
incarnate in Earth, who shares life with Creation.
We trust God with us now.

Today, we trust God who is Spirit,
reshaping, remaking, and healing.
We trust God with us now.

HYMN

“Morning Has Broken”

UMH 145

LISTENING TO CREATION: The Hummingbird Remembers

(from Rev. Cameron Trimble @ pilotingfaith.org)

PRAYER

O Spirit of the quiet places,
Of hummingbird wings and cave-dark songs,
Of ancestors who live in the marrow of our bones—
We give thanks.

**Teach us to trust, even when the path is unclear,
To follow even when we cannot see clearly,
To believe we are never alone—even in the silence.
May we listen,
And remember what we already know,
Your love is always with us. Amen.**

OFFERING OUR PRAYERS

[We gather today as creatures of God's making, followers of God's calling. Drawn together from many places and with many experiences, we come from the busyness of our churches, the worries and joys of life, and all that weighs on our hearts and minds. It is not easy to step away and come to COS. The commitment of being a Local Pastor is not an easy calling but it is a blessing when we know we are not doing this alone. We are in this together with each other and with God.]

And so, I invite us now to share some of the things that weigh on your hearts and minds, so you can truly step into this weekend, by sharing one joy or concern?

CLOSING PRAYER

Creator God,
Give us trust in your grace and abundance.
Give us faith the size of a mustard seed.
Divert our attention from our greed to the world's need.
Reshape our grumbles into great cries for justice, for healing, for hope
For all God's people, and for all living things struggling to survive
On depleted and war-torn land, in polluted waters, amid drought, flood and disaster.

**Make our love for you match our love for your creation.
Transform us into the stewards you created us to be:
Caretakers, Justice seekers, and Lovers of your creation.
Amen.**

HYMN

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

UMH 152

BLESSING

May God, who established the dance of creation,
Who marveled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos into order,
Restore our Hope, transform our lives, and renew the church.
Go now, and listen to God's voice in all of creation.

Online resources:

Creation Justice Ministries - creationjustice.org

UM Creation Justice Movement - umcreationjustice.org