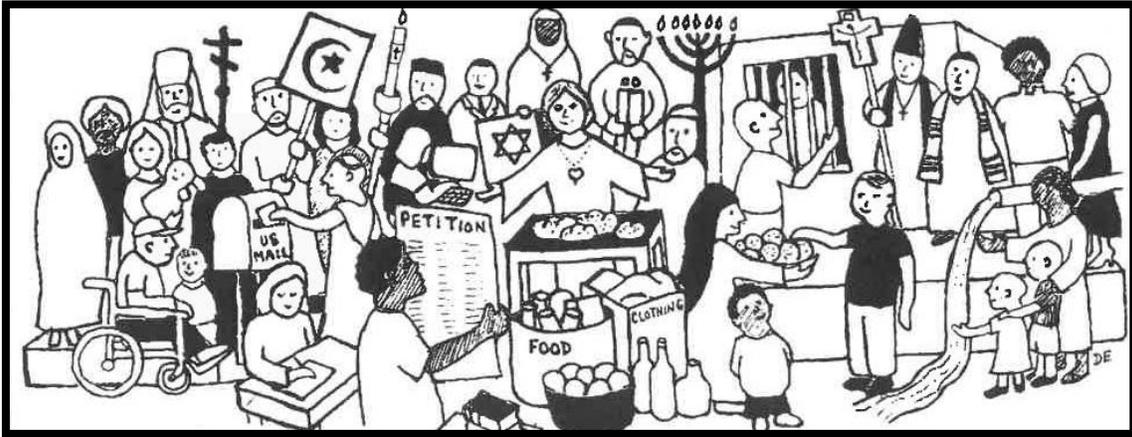


Season of Creation



Humanity Sunday

Sunday, July 25, 2021

*An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in Spirit.*

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “When We Are Living”

Setting by A Roberts

Lauren Russell, viola (GAC Student)

Welcome

*Call to Worship

In the name of God, who creates all peoples, in the name of Jesus Christ, who gives new life to all peoples, and in the name of the Spirit, the same breath in all peoples. Amen.

All peoples of our planet! Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

Peoples from every corner of creation
Celebrate with all creatures on Earth!

Young and old across the planet,
Rejoice in the day that God has made!

Indigenous peoples of every land,
Help us sense the spirit deep in each land!

Peoples of all colors and every shade,
Celebrate with us the richness of creation!

All humanity on Planet Earth,
Praise God for our planet home.

Sing, peoples, sing! **Sing, creation, sing!**

*Hymn of Praise — no. 979, from *All Creation Sings*

“Making Their Way”



1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,
learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626

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Confession

Sisters and brothers, we come to the God of mercy mindful that the world upon which we all depend is suffering. The sacred creation given to us, the immense beauty surrounding us, the complex web of life supporting us has been broken, not only by others, but by our own hand. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. (*silence*)

Loving God, you have placed us as stewards within your creation. Instead, we have abused your gifts. The beauty and abundance of the earth is falling apart under us. God of all life,

We confess our part in a broken world.

You have multiplied your people beyond counting and have provided enough for all. But we have poisoned the waters, exhausted the soils and polluted the air. By our own hand we have spoiled the life-giving resources upon which we all depend. God of all life,

We confess our part in a broken world.

As Jesus' disciples, we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and tend to the sick. Instead, we have taken the wealth of the world into our own houses and left your children in hunger and need. God of all life, **We confess our part in a broken world.**

Word of Assurance

As surely as the rain comes forth to water the earth, God's mercy comes to us as a gift, abundant and freely given. The same God who created the cosmos and raised Jesus from death to life brings healing and forgiveness to the world today. You are loved, you are restored. In Christ, you are made new. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of the Day

May God be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God, our Creator, as we reflect on the ways that humans have sought to dominate creation. Help us to hear the cries of creatures. Fill us with your risen power. Help us to serve and preserve our planet home and to celebrate life with people from all lands and all nations. In the name of Christ, the Risen Servant, who is the true image of God among us. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Genesis 1:26-28 (Inclusive Bible Translation)

26 Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground."

27 Humankind was created as God's reflection:

in the divine image God created them;

female and male, God made them.

28 God blessed them and said, "Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the earth - and be responsible for it! Watch over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things on the earth!"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 8

1O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
2**Out of the mouths of babes and infants**

6**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;**
you have put all things under their feet,
7all sheep and oxen,

**you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

3When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;

**4what are human beings that you are mindful of
them, mortals that you care for them?**

5Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.

and also the beasts of the field,

**8the birds of the air, and the fish of the
sea,**

**whatever passes along the paths of the
seas.**

9O LORD, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

A Reading from the Epistles — Philippians 2:1-8

1If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit,
any compassion and sympathy, 2make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same
love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in
humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4Let each of you look not to your own interests,
but to the interests of others. 5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

7but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

8he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death —

even death on a cross.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation — no. 708**

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

Refrain, Stanzas 1 & 2, Refrain, Stanzas 3 & 4, Refrain

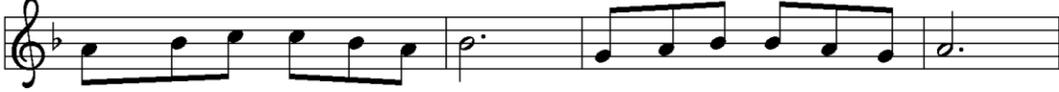
Refrain



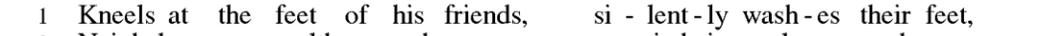
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



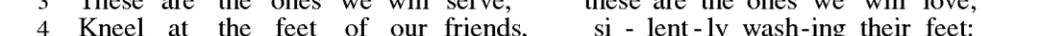
1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,



2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,



3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;

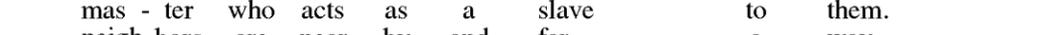


4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

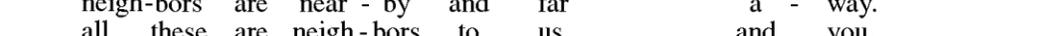
Refrain



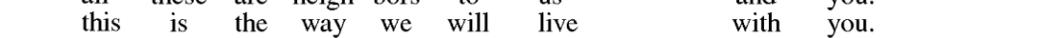
mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.



neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.



all these are neigh - bors to us and you.



this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.
Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin
Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

***Gospel — Mark 10:41-45**

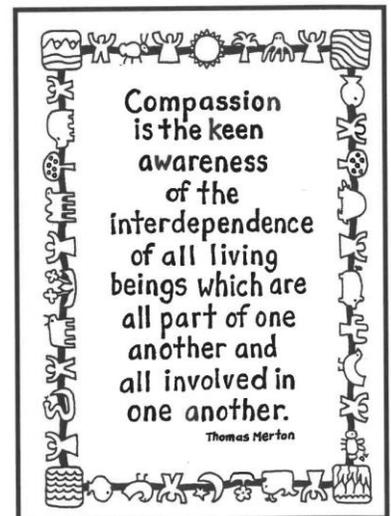
The Gospel of Mark, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

41When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. 42So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. 43But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, 44and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. 45For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon — “Our Dash: Created to Serve the Lord”

Interim Pastor Bill Nelsen

***Hymn** —
in Jesus”

“Have the Mind That Was

Sung to the tune HYFRYDOL

1. Have the mind that was in Jesus;
Let his way be found in you.
For he gave up what was precious —
Heaven's blessings — glory, too.
He was one with God in heaven
Yet put heaven's joy aside.
May we, too, give up ambition,
Letting Jesus be our guide.

2. Christ let go of heaven's riches
And became just as a slave.
He was found in human likeness
In this world he came to save.
Humbly serving, gladly giving,
He took up his cross and died.
May we learn God's way of living
Found in Jesus, crucified.

3. Christ our Lord knelt down to save us;
Then God raised him high above,
So that at the name of Jesus
All should know his wondrous love.
One day all will bow before him.
"He is Lord!" We'll all proclaim.
Till that time, may we all serve him —
Serving others in his name.

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

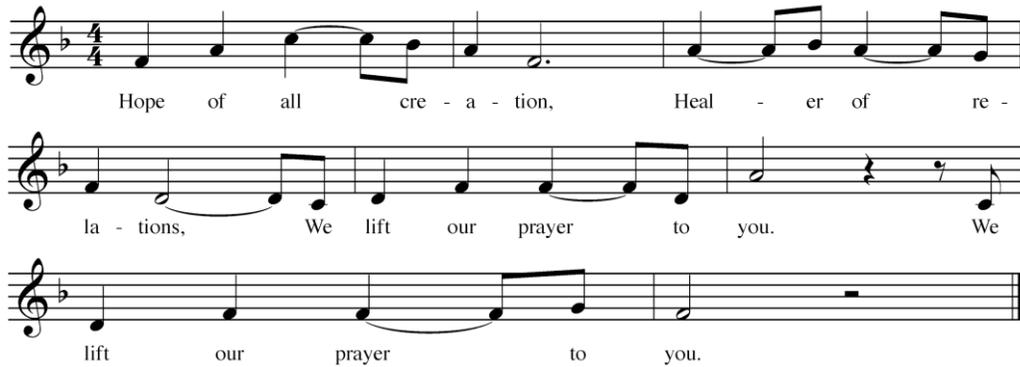
We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

Prayers of Intercession

In person only: we will sing this refrain once before the prayers and once after the prayers.



Hope of all cre - a - tion, Heal - er of re -
la - tions, We lift our prayer to you. We
lift our prayer to you.

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

We pray for the church. Bless the ministries of our neighboring congregations. Empower churches throughout the world and encourage missionaries who accompany global neighbors. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration, that all people may know your loving works. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and come to the aid of those enduring sweltering heat. Nurture wheat and barley crops grown for the nourishment of your people and conserve aquatic habitats and fish populations. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who govern. Cast out arrogance, selfishness, and corruption and instruct those who lead to practice compassion and humility. Inspire them with a vision of the common good and a commitment to ensure that all who hunger are fed. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those bowed down by heavy burdens: those who are unemployed or underemployed, those unable to find affordable housing, and those without health insurance. Console those who grieve and hear the cries of those who call to you for healing. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. Deepen our resolve to use what we have to serve those in need. When we worry that we do not have enough resources for ministry, assure us of your abundance. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who have died. As you sustained them through all their days, so dwell in our hearts, that we may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

O nurturing God of love, we pray together this prayer Christ taught us:

Our Father 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.

Offering

Please leave an offering in the basket outside the sanctuary, mail a check to the office, or give online: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.

Sending Hymn — no. 712

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

Departing to Serve God’s World



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love’s re-veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy’s per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crating to your pur-pose ev-’ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Announcements

*Commission

Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for creation,
honoring the planet God has created to be our home.

We will remember our planet home!

We will groan with all creation!

We will celebrate with Earth!

Will you care for creation?

With Christ, we will care for creation!

With Christ, we will keep our planet green!

With Christ, we will celebrate life!

*Blessing

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all,
fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth
and with the pulsing of Christ in creation,
through whom all things are reconciled and renewed. Amen.

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Use your Dash to serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude — "When the Poor Ones"

Setting by Al Roberts

Lauren Russell, viola

Acknowledgements

In Person Assistants

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen
Director of Music: Cantor Emily Bruflat
Musicians: Lauren Russel, GAC Student
Greeter/Reader: Beth Winterfeldt

Online Assistants

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen
Director of Music: Cantor Emily Bruflat
Musicians: Lauren Russel, GAC Student
Reader: Malcolm, Ivy, and Brenda McHugh

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For copyright information and music resources visit: www.dakotaroadmusic.com

For more information and resources about care of creation visit: www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org

Materials for this service from <https://seasonofcreation.com/>

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Announcements

- Sunday school registration is open on our homepage.
- Shetek Day Camp at FLC *has been cancelled*.
- Upcoming Red Cross Blood Drive July 29th sign up available on the church homepage.
- First Lutheran will provide volunteers to distribute fresh food to members of our community Friday, September 17. Contact the office to sign up to help.

Looking at the Week Ahead

- Bible Study Mondays at 9:30am
- Monday Evening Worship at 7pm with the Jeremiah Band

Prayers

- We pray for the family of David Kennedy whose mother died recently.
- We pray for Del Brouwers (family-in-law of John and Sharon Malm) who is continuing a long battle with cancer.
- We pray for those who have recently undergone or will undergo surgery: Erika Schuldt, Glen Stryker, Aileen Bipes.
- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Tom and Deb Johnson, Tom Michels, Dick Muesing, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Tom Stenson, Chuck Petry, Paul Aasen, Bob Cady, Marion Peterson, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, and Urusla McRostie, and for all those families continuing to adjust to the loss of loved ones.