



Season of Creation

July 17, 2022 + Solar Sunday

An asterisk (*) invites you to stand in body or in spirit.

In call and response sections, the congregation is invited to read the **bold** print all together.

Welcome to First Lutheran Church!

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Setting by Doris Gazda & Larry Clark
Cello Trio

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee their sun above.

Welcome

***Confession & Forgiveness** — *see Green Supplement*

***Opening Canticle** — *see Green Supplement*

“God of Stars and Distant Planets”

***Opening Litany for Solar Sunday**

Jesus Christ,

You rose with the dawn.

Risen Christ,

**You remind us of your presence
with the rising of the sun each dawn.**

Living Christ,

You are the light of the world.

In the name of the Creator, the source of light,
in the name of Christ, who rose with the dawn,
and the name of the Spirit, who dances with the sun.

May your presence rise among us!

***Prayer of the Day**

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

God, our Creator, **as we reflect on the solar blessings we enjoy, we celebrate the sun as the source of light, warmth, and energy. Help us to discern how we are connected with all living creatures under the sun and all dependent on the sun for life. Teach us to sense the risen Christ as a presence that brings hope with the dawn. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

Scripture Readings – you are invited to open your own bible to the passage or to listen to the lessons

Genesis 1:14-16
Psalm 19:1-6
Colossians 1:15-20

***Gospel Acclamation**



***Gospel — Matthew 5:43-48**



Sermon

Mary Gaebler

***Song — no. 861**

“When Long Before Time”

***A New Creed**

We are not alone,
we live in God’s world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God

***Prayers of Intercession**

You are invited to sing the refrain found on the Green Supplement to lead us into prayer and again at the close of our prayers.

Through Christ you created all things, visible and invisible. Teach us to honor and protect your good creation. Grant your wisdom to those who work to develop sources of renewable energy in order to protect all living things from further devastation. **Hear us, O Creator.**

Through Christ you reconcile all things. Motivate those in power to find ways to work together for the common good of our nation. Help our world leaders to work toward an end to enslavement, dehumanization, or brutality of any kind. Inspire us to be reconciled to our neighbors. **Hear us, O Creator.**

Through Christ you bring peace. Assure all who are worried and distracted by many things of your constant presence. Soothe those suffering in mind, body, or spirit. Sustain all who are afflicted and those who serve as caregivers. **Hear us, O Creator.**

In Christ you make your word fully known. Inspire this worshiping community to abide fully in your word as we sit at the feet of Jesus. Bless the ministry of teachers and Bible study leaders. **Hear us, O Creator.**

In your mercy, O Creator, we lift up these prayers for our world as we pray what 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.

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of our Creator be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

Music at the Offering

“Healer”

see Green Supplement

Departing to Serve God's Creation

Announcements

***Sending Song** — no. 853

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

***Commission**

Christ calls you to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for creation
Will you care for creation?
We will care for our place under the sun.
We will nurture this piece of stardust!
We will work to keep our planet green!

***Benediction & Dismissal**

May God our Creator bless and keep you, may Jesus, child of the earth, walk with you,
and may the Holy Spirit, wind and fire, give you hope and peace. **Amen.**
Go in peace, care for all creation. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude — “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

Setting by Daniel Barta
Carrie Stelter, cello

Acknowledgements

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Elements of this worship come from *A Liturgy for Earthkeeping* by Dakota Road and *Season of Creation*: <https://seasonofcreation.com/>

“A New Creed” from <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/new-creed>

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Substitute Leader: Mary Gaebler
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat
Audio/Video: Brad Chambers

Greeter/Reader: Patsy Rossow
Ushers: Bonnie & Harry Hunt
Musicians: Carrie Stelter, John Bipes, Erik Lutz

Announcements

- Curious to learn more about solar energy? Find and watch a documentary:
 - *Carbon Nation* (2010)
 - *Garbage Warrior* (2007)
 - More? Check out this list: <https://tinyurl.com/yckks8cx>
- While Pastor Chris is away on vacation from July 10-23, Pastor John Malm will be covering emergencies. Please call Angela in the office to be connected with Pastor Malm.
- Join us for a special summer educational and worship opportunity! On Wednesday, July 27, you are invited to a Bible Study led by Pastor Chris from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall and worship at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Tom and Deb Johnson, Abigail Christenson, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Gwen Powell, Nancy Maag, Claire Cardwell, Ursula McRostie and Betty Gustafson.
- We pray for lasting peace in Ukraine, on the streets of America, and in the hearts of all who have been affected by violence.

Notes from Season of Creation:

The Season of Creation (Australia) liturgies were the inspiration and oftentimes the text of many prayers, litanies, and scripture choices during our worship today. Why were these lessons chosen? A description was provided with brief rationale (below), also found here: <https://seasonofcreation.com/worship-resources/liturgies/>

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 1:14-16 “The sun created to rule”

On the fourth day the sun is created to rule like a king, to maintain order on Earth, sustaining the seasons, shedding light and governing times.

Psalm 19:1-6 “A tabernacle for the sun”

By creating a tabernacle for the sun, God declares it sacred and special, like the glory of God that covers and fills the tabernacle in the wilderness.

Epistle: Colossians 1:15-20 “Christ reconciles heaven and Earth”

Christ has not only reconciled humans with God, but as the Cosmic One, Christ has reconciled all above, including the sun, with all below.

Gospel: Matthew 5:43-48 “The sun shines equally on all”

Jesus urges us to live with an awareness that the sun, symbolizing true justice, shines equally on all, but to go beyond and love all, even our enemies.