



Season of Creation

June 19, 2022 + Animal 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 — “Morning Has Broken”

Gaelic Tune
Jeremiah Band

Welcome & Temple Talk

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

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

“God of Stars and Distant Planets”

***Opening Litany for Animal Sunday**

Jesus Christ, we assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life.

We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.

Jesus Christ, as we join in celebration with you and all creation,

We ask for your blessing, your shalom, on the creatures present here that we love and on all creatures celebrating in the wild.

In the name of God, who creates all life, In the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life,
and the name of the Spirit, who renews all life, we cry with all in the circle of life:

Shalom! Shalom! Shalom! May your blessing come!

***Prayer of the Day**

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

God, our Creator, **help us to love all creatures as our kin, all animals as our partners on Earth, all birds as messengers of praise, all small beings as expressions of your mysterious design, and all the sounds of nature as voices of hope.** 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 2:18-25

Psalm 148

Revelation 5:11-14

*Gospel Acclamation

*Gospel — Matthew 6:25-29

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in common time (4/4). The first staff uses a treble clef, and the second staff uses a bass clef. The lyrics "Hal - le - lu - jah." are written below the notes. The melody is simple, with eighth and sixteenth note patterns.

Sermon — “All God’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir”

Pastor Chris Culuris

*Song —

**Refrain: Praise God, Praise God, Praise the Lord
For the wonders of the world.**

1. For the people big and small
For the animals short and tall
We will care for all these things
That our Lord Creator brings. **Refrain**

**“What the Lord Creates”
Sung to “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”**

2. For the sea and for the sky
For the animals and birds that fly
We will care for all these things
That our Lord Creator brings. **Refrain**

3. For the seasons of the year
For the plants that re-appear
We will care for all these things
That our Lord Creator brings. **Refrain**

*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.

You hear the cries of the earth. Restore places where land, air, and waterways have been harmed. Guide us to develop and implement sources of energy and food production that do not destroy the earth. Be with conservationists who work to protect every living creature. **Hear us, O Creator.**

You hear the cries of those who are marginalized or cast out. On this Juneteenth observance, guide us continually toward the end of oppression in all its forms, especially white supremacy. Bring true freedom and human flourishing to all your beloved children. **Hear us, O Creator.**

You hear the cries of those who suffer. Come to the aid of all who are homeless, naked, hungry, and sick. Bring peace to all the Earth. **Hear us, O Creator.**

You hear the cries of those who celebrate and those who grieve on this Father’s Day. Nurture mutual love and tender care in all relationships. Comfort those for whom this day brings sadness or longing. **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.

*Blessing of Pets

For all the animals in the whole wide world, **We thank you, God!**
For all the fun and friendship we have with animals, **We thank you, God!**
For the responsibility and privilege of caring for animals, **We thank you, God!**
We ask for your blessing on the creatures that we love, especially those we have invited into our families.

You may place your hand on your pet(s) or a picture of your pet(s) as these words are spoken:
Beloved animal, you were created by God, and you are loved by God. May you and your human family
experience joy and companionship together, and continue to be a blessing to each other.
In the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, 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

*Father's Day Blessing

Life-giving God, we remember the fathers who have gone before us.
For their love, sacrifice, struggle, and joy, we thank you.

Ever-present God, we remember the fathers of scripture who are part
of our story as we are a part of your story.
For their example, faith, and love, we thank you.

Nurturing God, we remember those who may not be our parents, but are fathers and role models to us.
For their gift of themselves that they have given, we thank you.

For the families who struggle with fertility, for the families torn apart by incarceration, war, and personal
struggles, for those who have lost children or do not want children;
for their tears, for their strength, for their wisdom, for their lives, we thank you.

Loving God, we go out today giving thanks for the people in our lives who have nurtured us and set an
example of love, patience, kindness, and compassion as Christ did before us.

**For illuminating their path and encouraging
them to let their light shine so that we may follow, we thank you!**

***Sending Song** — no. 1064, from *All Creation Sings*

"Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom"

1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound-ing God's de - light-ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,

from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea-ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum-ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.

All cre - a - tion sings in won-der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
Spi-der, hu - man, red - wood, geck-o, mon-key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:

as they join the ring-ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with-in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

***Commission**

Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for her creatures.

We will care for creation!

We will nurture our animals!

We will celebrate the circle of life with them!

Go out into the world, love one another.

Cherish your animal family,

protest against abuse and neglect of our animals;
exercise stewardship of ALL creation, so that ALL
can experience God's Shalom.

Will you care for creation?

We will care for creation!

We will nurture all that has life and breath!

We will celebrate animals!

***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 — "Whistle Song"

Frank Hernandez & Sherry Saunders

Acknowledgements

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

Blessing: “Mother’s Day Prayer” by Claire Schoepp, adapted for Father’s Day, last petition added,

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2017/04/a-prayer-for-mothers-day.html>

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video: Brad Chambers

Greeter/Reader: Judy Fienen

Ushers: Tom Thorkelson

Musicians: Jeremiah Band - Steve Kidder, Raina Roemhildt, Rebekah Roemhildt, Ella Twaddle

Announcements

- Curious to learn more about biodiversity and understand the natural world and the peril it is facing? Find and watch a documentary:
 - David Attenborough: *Our Planet; A Life on Our Planet; Breaking Boundaries: The Science Of Our Planet*
 - Doug Tallamy: *Hometown Habitat; Nature's Best Hope*
- Join us for a special summer educational and worship opportunity! This Wednesday, June 22nd, 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.
- Would you like to join the float for the Fourth of July? We will have a keyboard on board and are looking for a few riders to sing some favorite hymns when the float comes to a stop along the parade route. Singing is not required to join in the fun; we need other walkers and riders, too! We will be decorating the float on Sunday, July 3 after church. Let the office know if you plan to participate (and don't forget to order a shirt if you don't have one)!
- On Saturday, July 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall, our missionary from South Africa, Pastor Philip Knutson, will be coming to lead a First Forum to discuss his work in South Africa.

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 Schultdt, Gwen Powell, Nancy Maag, Claire Cardwell, Ursula McRostie and Betty Gustafson.
- We pray for the victims of the war in Ukraine, mass shootings, and all who have been affected by violence .
- We pray for the family of Judy Ashbacher (sister-in-law of Carol Solberg) who recently died.
- We pray for the family of Don Nicolson (Brother of Betty Thompson) who died in Oklahoma on Tuesday.

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 2:18-25

“Animals created as partners”

God creates the animals and birds from the same ground that the first human is created. Animals and humans are kin and partners. Like children, the first human names the animals as part of a living family in Eden.

Epistle: Revelation 5:11-14

“Animals around the throne”

In this vision of the future, it is not only angels that praise Christ on the throne, but also the living creatures of Earth and sky. They are an integral part of our hope and our future.

Gospel: Matthew 6:25-29

“How God has made creation beautiful”

Solomon is all his royal splendor cannot match the brilliance of the creatures of land and sky that God creates and feeds.

Reading from a Sermon of St Francis

“Peace, birds, peace!”

My brother and sister birds, you should greatly praise your Creator and love him always. He gave you feathers to wear, and wings to fly, and whatever you need. God made you noble among his creatures and gave you a home in the purity of the air, so that, though you do not sow nor reap, he nevertheless protects and governs you without your least care.

About “Season of Creation,” created by Norman Habel

You can read the full story here: <https://seasonofcreation.com/about/the-season-of-creation-story/>

“Around the world, churches are [becoming] acutely aware of the environmental crisis. Our precious planet is at risk. In response, many congregations in the Western world have celebrated Earth Day, World Environment Day or St Francis of Assisi Day.

“The season of Creation begins as an Australian story.

“I, like many in our Lutheran Church in Australia, grew up in the bush. I climbed every tree within miles. I felt close to creation: the soil, the streams and the sounds of the bush. Celebrating the creation I love has long been one of my dreams.”