



Season of Creation

June 26, 2022 + Climate 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 — “In Sacred Manner”

Hymnal Setting by Robert Buckley Farlee

Welcome

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

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

“God of Stars and Distant Planets”

***Opening Litany for Climate Sunday**

We invite the weather to worship with us,

thunderstorms and wild lightning, rain clouds and soft summer skies.

We invite the ocean currents to praise God,

deep currents that circle in the Pacific Ocean, swirling waters that warm the Atlantic.

We join with the movements of Earth in celebration,

rotations that create atmospheric movement,

weather cycles moving Westward from dawn to dusk.

We call the ecosystems of nature to worship with us,

connecting us with diverse climates that nourish and sustain all life on Earth.

***Prayer of the Day**

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

Jesus Christ, **attune us to the wisdom of God deep in creation. Make our spirits sensitive to the forces of nature at work beneath us and the suffering of those who experience severe changes in their climate. Make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs from the sea, the land, and the weather around the world. Christ, teach us to care. 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*

Job 28:22-33

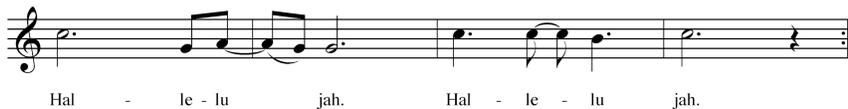
Psalm 104:1-13

James 3:13-18

***Gospel Acclamation**



***Gospel — Matthew 16:1-4**



Sermon — “Respecting God’s Good Creation”

Pastor Chris Culuris

Song — no. 1049 from *All Creation Sings

“Before the Waters Nourished Earth”



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - ined³ morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

***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.

God of faithfulness, set the face of your church firmly on you. Rooted in your self-giving love, may the church find freedom in loving our neighbors and caring for all creation. **Hear us, O Creator.**

God of gentleness, strengthen the earth’s ability to heal, and show us the path to be healing instruments in the world. Protect homes, habitats, and livelihoods threatened by climate disasters. Charge us to make big changes in order to save our Earth from further destruction. **Hear us, O Creator.**

God of peace, guide all who govern, that they place the good of their citizens above self-promotion. Anoint leaders of nations with your Spirit of love for all the Earth. Protect refugees and all who live under tyranny or conflict, especially those continuing to live in violence in Ukraine. **Hear us, O Creator.**

God of love, attend to those struggling with addiction, depression, or uncontrolled anger, particularly those who experience climate anxiety. Provide support systems and loving companions as they work toward health. **Hear us, O Creator.**

God of joy, we give thanks for all who have died and now celebrate life in you. Keep their examples of faithfulness always before us, that we trust your promises in life and in death. **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 —**

"The Climate Is Changing!"
Sung to the tune FOUNDATION

The climate is changing! Creation cries out!
Your people face flooding and fire and drought.
We see the great heat waves and storms at their worst.
We pray for the poor, Lord — for they suffer first.

We pray for the animals here in our midst
who cannot defend their own right to exist.
We pray for the mountains and forests and seas
that bear the harsh footprint of our human greed.

We thank you for people who treasure the earth,
whose faith has long taught them its beauty and worth.
We thank you as well for the children and youth
who look to the future and speak out the truth.

We thank you for leaders, courageous and brave,
who know that the earth is worth fighting to save,
who care about justice and what they should do,
who listen to science and work hard for you.

You love this good earth, and you sent us your Son!
May we love our neighbors - there's work to be done.
May we, by your Spirit, do all in our power
to care for your earth in this critical hour.

*Commission

Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for creation,
especially that part of the planet
and the climate where we live.

Will you care for creation?
We will care for creation!
We will nurture our planet!
**We will celebrate with the mysteries of our
climate!**

We will remember the climate we enjoy!
We will groan when the climate changes!
We will wonder at the ways of the weather!

*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 — “Praise to the Lord”

Setting by J.G. Walther

*Praise the Almighty! In wonder my spirit is soaring!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises outpouring.
Let the amen sound from God's people again, gladly forever adoring!*
- from ELW no. 859, Stanza 4

Acknowledgements

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“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
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat
Audio/Video: Shanon Nowell

Greeter/Reader: Barb Wilkinson
Ushers: Steve Erickson

Announcements

- Curious to learn more about our climate crisis? Find and watch a documentary:
 - Al Gore: *An Inconvenient Truth* (2006); *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power* (2017)
 - Michael P. Nash: *Climate Refugees*
 - More? Check out this list: <https://tinyurl.com/zh65b6ah>
- Join us for a special summer educational and worship opportunity! On Wednesday, July 6, 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)!
- Beginning on July 8, Fresh Food Fridays will take place at First Lutheran on one Friday each month through October. Volunteers are needed. Food distribution is for anyone in the community to receive. Please contact the office for more information about this program.
- 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 Schuldt, Gwen Powell, Nancy Maag, Claire Cardwell, Ursula McRostie and Betty Gustafson.
- We pray for the father-in-law of Michelle Doose, Harry Kruize, for improved health and good outcomes from his upcoming surgery.
- We pray for travelers, to keep them safe.
- We pray for the victims of the war in Ukraine, mass shootings, and all who have been affected by violence .
- We pray for the families of those who have recently died: Audree Anderson (Sister of Mark Anderson) who died on June 6, Judy Ashbacher (sister-in-law of Carol Solberg), Don Nicolson (Brother of Betty Thompson)

Notes from Season of Creation:

The Season of Creation (Australia) liturgies were the inspiration and oftentimes the text of many prayers, litanies, brief rationale (below), also found in documents here: <https://seasonofcreation.com/worship-resources/liturgies/>

Hebrew Scripture: Job 28.22-33 In this remarkable wisdom poem, the sage asks where wisdom can be found. No human can find it. But God finds wisdom. Where? In creation! In the ways and laws of nature! And in this poem, God finds wisdom specifically in the climate or the weather, in the forces of the wind, the volume of the waters, the law of the rain and the way of the thunderstorm. Do we see God's wisdom at work in these domains of nature?

Psalms: Psalm 104:1-13 In this Psalm we discover a portrait of God deep in the midst of the weather. God is not directing the climate from some detached throne, but is wrapped in light, riding on the wings of the wind, fixing the boundaries of the oceans and actively providing waters to sustain life. God's presence permeates the climate.

Epistle: James 3:13-18 If the wisdom of God is present in nature, as the first lesson indicates, then the advice of James is appropriate. We are called to live by the wisdom of God from above rather than by selfish ambition. Then we may harvest peace rather than harvest what comes from upsetting the balance of our climate.

Gospel: Matthew 16:1-4 Jesus reminds the leaders of his community that they have long observed patterns in the weather to discern what is happening in nature. These are the natural signs humans should be watching to understand what patterns and changes, not supernatural interventions. To keep his audience wondering, Jesus suggests they watch for the cryptic sign of Jonah. What might that sign be for us today?

