



church of reconciliation

**Order of Service
September 13, 2020**

The Liturgy of the Word

PRELUDE

**Largo from “New World Symphony”
By Dvorak (Going Home)**

VIDEO: INVITATION TO CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

THE OPENING HYMN

**Welcome to Country
By Norman Habel**

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant In the name of our Creator, fountain of life, in the name of Christ, pulse of life, and in the name of the Spirit, breath of life.

People **Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God’s presence!**

THE COLLECT (*used every week*)

God of All Creation, as we ponder the immense challenges before us, break open our hearts beyond self-centered concerns, that we might summon the courage, make the commitment, and answer your call to care for all of your sacred Creation. Through Jesus the Christ, who is with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever, **AMEN.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord of life be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Lector: A Reading from Exodus.

**Exodus 3:1-12
Read by Viola Roller**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father,

the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.”

Lector Listen to the Word of God.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 139

O God You Search Me

THE EPISTLE

1 Cor. 15:50-58
Read by Joanne Murphy

Lector A reading from Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Lector Listen to the Word of God.

People Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 12:38-40

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Judith Rhodes

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Celebrant: Let us affirm our faith together.

All:

**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 all creatures,
and that every creature is a manifestation of God's love.
We believe that God became incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth,
who lived as one of us, healed, reconciled,
and called us friends.
He suffered and died on a cross, the ultimate act of love.
We believe that the Risen Christ fills the whole of Creation.
We believe the Spirit breathes life into all that is.
We believe that with the Risen Christ we are rooted and grounded in Eternal Love.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Read by the Lawson/Moore Family

Intercessor: Loving God, you are forever creating, unfolding, and revealing your Spirit throughout Creation. Help us to see with new eyes and to feel with open hearts that every being and every thing you have created is deeply sacred. Help us to care for all of your sacred creation as you have called us to do. Ignite and fuel resolve in the leaders of all nations, near and far, that they may share a common vision for the welfare of our planet, the very foundation of the lives which they proclaim to protect. Open our eyes to see the part we can play to heal our earthly home.

Creator of All, help us to see.

Passionate Christ, help us to hear the cries of Creation. Break open our hearts and shake us up! Inspire us to care for your sacred Creation in our own front yards and backyards, in our neighborhoods and communities, and in the choices we make every day.

Creator of All, help us to care.

Compassionate Spirit, those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit long to feel your love as they reach for wholeness; we pray especially for Jan, Kimberly, Greg, Reese, George, Jim, Anna, Yvonne, Phil, Stella, Betty, Paxton, Kim, Peter, Rick, Richard, and Patrice.

Empower us to be your presence to those in any kind of pain or sorrow, serving them and doing what we can to ease their way.

Creator of All, help us to act.

Eternal God, you welcome your children who have passed into the fullness of spirit. May those who mourn be assured that they are not alone; may they feel our love and the kinship of all Creation reaching out to comfort them.

God of All, you speak to us through the voices of prophets and the cries of Creation, help us to hear, to see, to care, and to act with steadfast commitment so that we might become the faithful stewards you have called us to be. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Happy birthday to:

Inez Scott 9/14
Paloma Farias 9/16
Pat Hammond 9/16
Kathy Ramseur 9/17
Stephanie Farias 9/18

Patrick Finucane 9/18
Martha Hughes 9/18
Katheryn Cox 9/19
Emily Lawitz 9/20

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.

THE OFFERTORY

Season of Creation Video

Poetry by Jennifer Gwin

I Vow

Vow to look deeply into the face of the nature that you live in,
Honor its nobility, nurture, ferocity and softness.

Vow to look deeply into the face of your family,
Endeavor to listen with all your presence,
soften to their hard places and reflect their beauty back to them.

Vow to surrender into the embrace of the Creator and
recognize the humanness in your own faltering.

Where there is turning away
feel the unfurling of the fern spreading to find the sunlight.

Where there is cloying and hesitation
go with the forward flowing water falling continuously
toward the great ocean.

When malaise clouds your will
remember the focused vision and drive of the Osprey
honing its sudden downward speed like an arrow to its prey.

For the earth lives
and we in harmony with it.
We are sentient beings
moving with the tides.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

Celebrant: May God be with you and with all creation.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Open your hearts.

People: **We open our hearts to God.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God, Maker of heaven and earth.

People: **It is right to thank our God.**

Celebrant: It is right to give you thanks, loving God. Your Word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars, and stardust to appear, for order to emerge from chaos, for all life to be born of Earth and the Spirit. You made us stewards of this fragile Earth, our island home.

In Jesus you chose to be born, to suffer, to die, to rise from death to redeem humankind, to restore Creation, and to reconcile all born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your Presence is the living power in all things, the Christ deep among us, filling Earth—land, sea, and air; filling every element and place, filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels, saints and sinners, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea, and the whole company of Creation, we proclaim your presence in and among us.

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Then the Celebrant continues:

All glory to you, Giver of life abundant for all Creation. Accept our praises for Jesus the Christ, the one perfect offering for the world, who on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me."

After supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you, and for all, to forgive sin. Do this as often as you drink it to remember me."

Therefore, God of All Existence, in the suffering and death of Jesus our Redeemer, we meet you in your glory. We lift up the cup of salvation and call upon your name. Here and now, with this bread and wine, we celebrate your great acts of liberation, ever present and living in Jesus the Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come.

All: Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

In Christ we offer ourselves to do your will. Infuse us with your Holy Spirit, feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ with all who share your gifts of love.

ALL:

Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you on earth and all Creation, we worship you, our Loving Creator God. AMEN.

A MEDITATION ON THE LORD'S PRAYER FROM THE NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK

All:

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Celebrant: God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of the altar you assure us of your presence within us and within the body of Christ, the faithful through all the generations; Grant that we who have witnessed anew these holy mysteries, though unable to receive the physical elements of the Sacrament, may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life giving presence, reshaping in your likeness the world around us, until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence; through Christ our Risen Lord.
Amen.

THE INVITATION:

Celebrant: Come, for all things are now ready. Come to the table with all your kin and share with all in need the gift of healing for those in pain, the gift of forgiveness for those in sin, the gift of assurance for those in doubt, and the gift of hope for those in tears.

People **May we who share these gifts, share Christ with one another and with all of Creation.**

COMMUNION MUSIC

**“Air” from Overture #3 in D By J. S. Bach
Cindy Sanchez, flute**

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Receive Christ into your body, Sacred Body in your body. Receive Christ into your blood, Sacred Blood in your blood, flowing through you now as you breathe in spiritual communion. God of Mercy, breathe in me; breathe in us. Christ of my heart, breathe in me; breathe in us. Spirit of Peace, breathe in me; breathe in us.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Now may the power of Christ’s body and blood transform our hearts, our minds, and our bodies so that we may become like the One we receive: Healer, Reconciler, Peace Maker.

In Jesus’ name, **Amen.**

People: **We thank you, Christ, for this holy banquet, shared in communion with you and each other. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Creation!

People: **We go in peace, as stewards in Christ, tending the Earth!**

THE CLOSING HYMN

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!