



church of reconciliation

**Order of Service
September 20, 2020**

The Liturgy of the Word

PRELUDE

**Cavatina from “The Deer Hunter”
By John Williams**

VIDEO: INVITATION TO CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

THE OPENING HYMN

Hosea

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.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Joel 1:8-10, 17-20

Lector: A Reading from Joel.

Read by Colleen Power-Griffin

Lament like a virgin dressed in sackcloth for the husband of her youth. The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off from the house of the LORD. The priests mourn, the ministers of the LORD. The fields are devastated, the ground mourns; for the grain is destroyed, the wine dries up, the oil fails. The seed shrivels under the clods, the storehouses are desolate; the granaries are ruined because the grain has failed. How the animals groan! The herds of cattle wander about because there is no pasture for them; even the flocks of sheep are dazed. To you, O LORD, I cry. For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and flames have burned all the trees of the field. Even the wild animals cry to you because the watercourses are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

Lector Listen to the Word of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 65

Ed Weitz, cantor

Refrain: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water; you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. *Refrain*

And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows;
You level it, soften it with showers; you bless its growth. *Refrain*

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps; in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. *Refrain*

The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes they sing. *Refrain*

THE EPISTLE

Romans 8:18-27

Read by Margaret Lewis

Lector A reading from Romans.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Lector Listen to the Word of God.

People Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-4:2

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

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 Farias 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 Kimberly, Nora, Benny, Ted, Randy, Fred, Jim, Liz, Audie, Stella, Robert, Dru, Gordon, Renee, Paxton, Charlie, Rick, 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, especially Betty Read. 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:

Betty Ehlinger 9/22
Calvin Richards 9/23
Steve Gilliam 9/23
Natalie Steed 9/24
Judy Seitz 9/24
Bobbie Maloy 9/25
Terri Steed 9/26
Sheri Ressler 9/27

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

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

Celebrant: 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

To My Old Brown Earth By Pete Seeger
Sherrie Binkley, soloist

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

The Way of the Wilderness (The Ash Grove)
Mark Mangus, cantor