



church of reconciliation

**Order of Service
September 27, 2020**

The Liturgy of the Word

PRELUDE

Deep River

VIDEO: INVITATION TO CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

THE OPENING HYMN

O God of Life, Your Waters Flow ("Sweet Hour of Prayer")

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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

Lector: A Reading from Genesis.

Genesis 8:20-22

Read by Rusty Wilson

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the LORD smelled the pleasing odor, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

Lector Listen to the Word of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Refrain: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord, you children of God,
Give the Lord glory and power
Give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord, resplendent and holy. *Refrain*

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters;
The Lord on the immensity of waters;
The voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendor. *Refrain*

The God of glory thunders,
In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
The Lord sits as king forever. *Refrain*

THE EPISTLE

Lector: A reading from Revelation.

Revelation 22:1-5

Read by Leslie Allison

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Lector: Listen to the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

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 Pritchett/Brittain 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 Reese, George, Kes, Jim, Anna, Yvonne, Phil, Stella, Ben, Joe, Joan, Charlie, Alice, Peter, 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 Ruth Bader Ginsburg. 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:

Laureen Cate 9/30

Cecile Parrish 9/30

Sylvia Maddox 10/2

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

Shall We Gather
Katheryn Cox, voice and ukulele

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

Peace Is Flowing Like A River