



SEASON OF CREATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR - 4TH SUNDAY



CLIMATE
WITNESS
PROJECT



Cover image by Betsy Ratzsch, originally for Church of the Servant in Grand Rapids, Michigan, representing the theme of Gathering. The image includes a variety of grains: rice, millet (major food source in Africa), thistle, wheat, and oats to symbolize the diversity in our gathering as we join with churches all over the world in celebrating the Season of Creation.

Gathering

Call to Worship

(Please rise in body or in spirit)

Leader: We have been appointed by God to join our voices with every creature under heaven.

People: Let us raise a song of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Gathering Hymn

This version of the familiar hymn uses the original language as written by St. Francis of Assisi.

All sing:

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam,
And sister moon with silver gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O sister water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear Mother Earth who day by day
Unfolds such blessings on our way,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them God's glory also show,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Greeting

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: God of creation, we give thanks for the beauty and goodness of the earth that you called into being and continually nurture and sustain. Our voices join in praise with all creation: with the sea that roars, the trees that clap their hands, and the birds that sing in joy. By your Spirit, weave us anew into your purposes for abundant life, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray,

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Lament and Confession

Leader: Beloved, we are made in the divine image, and God called us good. Yet we go our own way, causing harm to ourselves, to one another, and to the earth. So let us lament, and confess our sin to God and to one another.

Song of Lament

(In silence we lament the brokenness in Creation.)

Leader: God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you.

People: We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. We acknowledge that we have benefitted from and participated in the exploitation of your creation through fossil fuel industries, through plastics that have suffocated our landscapes, through the pollution of waterways, extinction of species, and destruction of places called home both near and far, and through a broken relationship with the earth which gives us life. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve your purpose of shalom for the whole community of creation.
Amen.

Silent prayer of confession.

Assurance

Leader: Friends, hear the good news: Jesus Christ says, “See, I am making everything new!” In Christ, we are forgiven. In the living waters of baptism, the Holy Spirit has washed us clean! Glory to God!

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Word

(Please be seated)

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Gracious God, as we open the scriptures today, speak your Word to us, that we may be recreated in your Son, Jesus Christ. In his life, may we have new life; in his light, may we see light.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 6:18-22

Leader: ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. ²¹Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for

you and for them.”²²Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: Mark 1:14-20

Leader: ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Creation Psalm: Psalm 107

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

People: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Leader sings: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God’s steadfast love endures forever.
The redeemed of the Lord, they say it is so.
From trouble, God will redeem us still.

Leader: Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;
hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

People: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them
from their distress; he led them by a straight way, until they reached
an inhabited town.

Leader: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

People: For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Leader: Some sat in darkness and in gloom, prisoners in misery and in irons, for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High. Their hearts were bowed down with hard labor; they fell down, with no one to help.

People: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he brought them out of darkness and gloom, and broke their bonds asunder.

Leader: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

People: For he shatters the doors of bronze, and cuts in two the bars of iron.

Sermon

Offertory

Leader: Beloved, everything in heaven and earth belongs to our merciful God. Let us come with joy and offer what God has entrusted to us, gifts as a sign that we dedicate our whole lives to the healing and flourishing of all people and all creation, through Jesus Christ.

(Offering)

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving to God the Creator

Leader: We lift up our hearts to you, Creator God. You spread the dazzling canopy of the heavens and established the deep foundations of the earth; you lifted up mountains and hills, and poured out oceans and rivers. You filled the earth, teeming with life, revealing your glory, and made human beings in your image to help care for this world, our beautiful and precious home.

When human violence, corruption, and greed laid waste to your good creation, still you called us, again and again, to return. You revealed your righteous Law to show the path.

Then, in the fullness of time, out of your great love for the world, you sent Jesus Christ to redeem and restore the earth, heal our brokenness, and make all things new. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with all creatures great and small, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: Holy, holy, holy, Lord. God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Hymn: [All on Earth and All in Heaven.](#) *Lift Up Your Hearts #922*

Sending

Benediction

Leader: May the One who creates us, go with and before us; may the One who saves us, lead us into everlasting life; may the One who gives us wisdom, guide us in the way of justice and peace.

People: Amen.

Leader: Go and join the song of creation, go and attend to the groaning of creation, go and work for the healing and wholeness of all the earth.

People: Alleluia! Amen!

All sing: last stanza of "All Creatures of Our God and King"

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship God in humbleness,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

“All Creatures of Our God and King” Text: St. Francis of Assisi, tr. William H. Draper; music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Thank you to Church of the Servant in Grand Rapids, Michigan for allowing adaptations of their original liturgies.

Appendix

If you are celebrating communion, you may include the following in the liturgy according to the order of your service.

Table

Preparing the Table

Leader: Sisters and brothers in Christ, everything in heaven and earth belongs to our merciful God. Let us come with joy and offer what God has entrusted to us, gifts as a sign that we dedicate our whole lives to the healing and flourishing of all people and all creation, through Jesus Christ.

People come forward and place their tithes and offerings in the baskets at the communion table.

A church member brings forward the bread and wine for the communion.

Offertory

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving to God the Creator

Leader: We lift up our hearts to you, Creator God. You spread the dazzling canopy of the heavens and established the deep foundations of the earth; you lifted up mountains and hills, and poured out oceans and rivers. You filled the earth, teeming with life, revealing your glory, and made human beings in your image to help care for this world, our beautiful and precious home.

When human violence, corruption, and greed laid waste to your good creation, still you called us, again and again, to return. You revealed your righteous Law to show the path.

Then, in the fullness of time, out of your great love for the world, you sent Jesus Christ to redeem and restore the earth, heal our brokenness, and make all things new.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with all creatures great and small, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: *Holy, holy, holy Lord.* God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

(Please be seated.)

...for the work of Jesus Christ

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh in the body of a woman. Christ is the Word that brings order to chaos, revealing all things, birthing life by the Spirit. Christ is the Bread of Life, feeding the poor and hungry, giving wisdom and strength for each day. Christ is the True Vine, binding us together in unity of the Spirit, empowering us to bear fruit for the world. And so we give thanks that this same Christ gave us this memorial of his sacrifice until his coming again.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

People: We who are many are one body for we all share the same loaf.

Leader: After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

People: The cup which we all share is our fellowship in the blood of Christ.

Leader: Remembering God’s faithfulness to us and to all of creation through Jesus Christ, let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

...for the presence of the Holy Spirit

Leader: God of all creation, through your goodness we receive this bread and wine: fruit of the earth and work of human hands. By your Holy Spirit, may this bread and wine become for us the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Make us one with Christ, and one with all who share this meal. Heal your stricken world today, that the groaning of the soil, the skies, and the seas may be transformed to rejoicing as you remember your covenant and reveal your glory.

People: Amen.

The Invitation to the Table

(Please rise in body or in spirit)

Leader: Congregation in the Lord Jesus Christ, our loving Redeemer has prepared this table for all who love and trust in him for their salvation. Anyone baptized in the name of the Triune God is now invited to come with gladness to this holy meal. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion

Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

People: We give you thanks, eternal God, that you have fed us in this sacrament. Fill us with a vision of your new creation where all may have abundant life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Amen.

