



**SEASON of CREATION: TREES  
~ WEEK ONE ~  
LIVE STREAM WORSHIP  
June 14, 2020**

*Peace Lutheran Church*



*West Seattle, Washington*

*“Wisdom is a Tree of Life to those who lay hold of her;  
those who hold her fast are called happy.”*

**Proverbs 3:18**

## ✦ GATHERING ✦

**WELCOME! During Season of Creation: TREES we're exploring the connection between forest ecology, human ecology, and our Christian faith.**

*Ancestors of modern trees began appearing on Earth about 385 million years ago. Over the millennia complex relationships have evolved within and between various tree species, their root systems, the microscopic fungal and bacterial network that inhabits the humus at their feet—as well with the creatures, great and small, with whom they have slowly built alliances through time. Across millions of generations, trees have contributed significantly to the process by which Earth became a habitable planet—a role they continue to play today.*

*Research into forest ecology in recent decades has made some startling discoveries: that trees living in community (we call them forests) communicate with one another; tend their young, share resources, respond to the needs of weakened members, enrich the livability of the places where they reside, sequester carbon, provide the oxygen we breathe, time the dispersal of their seed-progeny to maximize distribution, budget their strength and energy economically, and have well developed methods for healing themselves and fending off invaders.<sup>1</sup>*

*For thousands of years human cultures around the world have recognized the sacred nature of trees and have employed them as symbols of the Divine. In the Scriptures, the Tree of Life is a metaphor for the mysterious, primordial Garden from which humankind emerged (Genesis 1-2) and toward which God's mission of wholeness and healing is leading us (Revelation 22). The Tree of the Cross is the axis through which Earth and Heaven, God and Humankind, are reunited through the outpoured love of the Creator in and through Jesus, whose incarnation opens our eyes once more to the sacred nature of Earth which, like a Mother, nurtures and sustains all living things.*

*During these three weeks we're paying attention to the trees we encounter each day—around our homes, in your neighborhoods and parks—and we invite you to join us! Let's learn together more of what trees and forests have to teach us about living in community and enhancing the livability of the places where we live. Let's get outside and use the Tree Walking Guides provided by the City of Seattle Park Department (available on the Peace website) to view specific species of trees “in person” in West Seattle parks and neighborhoods; let's humbly open ourselves to what we might learn.*

**Our PASS THE HAT MINISTRY this month is Earth Ministry.** A video highlighting Earth Ministry's role as a “moral compass” is included in today's Live Stream.

*In WEEK TWO we'll be joined by Lynda Mapes, author of Witness Tree: Seasons of Change with a Century Old Oak. Then, in WEEK THREE, look for a special performance of The Tree, an original song composed by Dana Lyons arranged and produced by Bronwyn Edwards for virtual choir. In addition, Kjerstyn Lindgren, niece of Kevin and Nicole Klinemeier and graduate of Evergreen State University, will lead an adult forum on tips for moving toward a zero-waste lifestyle.*

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<sup>1</sup> See Peter Wohlleben, *The Hidden Life of Trees*. (Vancouver BC: Greystone Books, 2016)

**PRELUDE**

*God Created Heaven and Earth*

Jim Hunt, violin

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Julie, Ben, and Will Ward lead the Call to Worship from the foot of a tree in Lincoln Park. Crush and rub a sprig of cedar or rosemary between your fingers and take in the aroma. Cedar is a sacred tree in this part of the world. Rosemary is a symbol of remembrance.*

**L** Come, Creator, Mother and Father of all,  
come unite with Earth community around the sacred tree of life,  
and help us remember anew:  
The first fresh breath of life,  
the first hint of your presence,  
the first song in the dawn  
that opened our souls to you and taught us to celebrate.

**C** **Come, help us remember!**

**L** Come, compassionate Christ,  
come unite with all creation around the ancient tree of healing,  
and help us remember:  
The pains you feel among the suffering poor,  
the hurts you feel when Earth is wounded,  
the touch of your healing hands not only for the few long ago,  
but for all creations on Earth and for Earth.

**C** **Come, help us remember!**

**L** Come, Spirit of life and breath,  
come unite with all that inhales oxygen from the first trees of life,  
and help us remember our breath:  
Our life from God, the first breath,  
our life through the trees of Earth,  
our life through the risen Christ,  
so that we may become agents of life as we breathe with all creation.

**C** **Come, help us remember!**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Mother Earth, Our Mother Birthing*

Norman Habel

TUNE: PRAISE, MY SOUL

1. Mother Earth, our Mother birthing ev'ry creature from the ground.  
Jesus too was flesh and breathing, kin to all that's green and brown.  
Celebrate with all creation: God has joined the web of life.
2. Sister Air, our Sister lifting ev'ry creature born with wings;  
Jesus shared the breath of forests, breath that makes our spirits sing.  
Celebrate with all creation: God has joined the web of life.

3. Brother Water, Brother pulsing deep through ev'ry vein and sea,  
Jesus drank the very raindrops for our wine and in our tea.  
Celebrate with all creation: God has joined the web of life.
4. Father Fire, our Father burning with the sacred urge to live.  
Jesus' death completes the cycle, bringing life beyond the grave.  
Celebrate with all creation: God has joined the web of life.

Words: © 1999 Norman Habel. From, *Seven Songs of Creation: liturgies for Celebrating and Healing Earth*.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Creator be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Creator God,

**C** **Today we come together to be grounded—as trees are grounded in nourishing soil—in your creation and in your grace. Show us your presence in the forests that surround us, that we may see the communities they foster above and below the soil. Teach us to live our lives with loving intention, recognizing our relatedness to all living things. In the name of Christ, through whom all things are reconciled, whether on Earth or in heaven. Amen.**

### **CONFESSION**

*Our confession this season is framed by words from Laudato Si', the circular letter from Pope Francis which invites all people into renewed care for our common home.*

**P** In his beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.

**C** **We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air, and in all forms of life.**

**P** The Earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail.”

**C** **We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the Earth; that our very bodies are made up of her elements: we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. Forgive our forgetfulness, O God, and give us the will to treat our sister with respect, care, and gratitude.**

*Silence is observed*

# HYMN OF HOPE

## Holy One, In You Alone

Ray Makeever



We do not call this world our own, yet we will make this earth our



home; Ho - ly One, in you a - lone.



1 We do not claim this liv - ing word  
2 We do not claim this love of ours  
3 We do not claim these seeds we sow  
4 We do not claim our prayers for change



that we have heard is ours a - lone to give:  
can tame the pow'rs that lead our world to sin:  
will sprout and grow from our own hope - ful hands:  
can re - ar - range this world by our own will:



We on - ly know we have a  
We on - ly know we walk the  
We on - ly know we are the  
We on - ly know the ris - en



heart in which it lives.  
road where Christ has been.  
ground on which it lands.  
Christ is with us still.

*Refrain*

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## ABSOLUTION

**P** Sisters and Brothers, God hears our confession and offers us a way forward. In baptism we are grounded in grace, and equipped to be the Earthkeepers God has intended from the beginning.

**C** **Creator, teach us to love Earth as our home and restore us to our calling as peacemakers, servants, and keepers. Lord, teach us to care! Amen.**



We do not call this world our own, yet we will make this earth our



home; Ho - ly One, in you a - lone.



## + WORD +

### **READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24**

*In chapter 17, Ezekiel lays out the case for both judgement and hope. The first allegory (vs. 1-10) speaks of the divine judgement upon Israel's king, as evidenced by the Babylonian invasion. The second (vs. 22-24) speaks of God's intention to raise up a new leader, like a noble cedar.*

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it,

in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord.

I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

L Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God!**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

#### **UNTITLED POEM** by Rex E. Ingersoll

*At the foot of the mountains  
Where the hills begin to rise,  
you'll find a place of quiet. . .  
a humbling glimpse of paradise.*

*It's in the forests that you'll find it.  
you will feel it first. . .  
feel the stillness wrap around you.  
You'll want to whisper and not know why,  
except, perhaps you feel you're close to God  
and this could be a holy place.*

*It is a great cathedral.  
There are softly lighted aisles  
between the rising spires  
of Fir and Spruce. . .  
Chandeliers of fragile looking moss,  
and supplicating Hemlocks  
with their heads forever bowed.*

*It is a place for worship.  
I like to think it is.  
For it's here your hungry soul stands free  
and open to be filled,  
with the ecstasy of peace  
that must be very close to Heaven.*

*It's here you'll see the great design—  
the infinite place of re-creation.  
Here beside you, close enough to touch,  
are a thousand years of time.  
It's here you'll see the giant Spruce  
with its roots astride a fallen tree—  
a tree that fell five hundred years before;  
returning to the soil that fed it,  
so it might nourish those that follow.*

*And there upon its rotted hulk  
is a tiny spot of color;*

*a bright green seedling  
starting out its span.*

*It's here you'll see eternity—  
the never ending life.*

*It's here at the foot of the mountains  
where the hills begin to rise.*

From Seattle at this Moment, Rex E. Ingersoll. © 1962, Child Tourist Publications, Inc. Mercer Island, WA

## MESSAGE

Pastor Erik Kindem

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### *The Earth and All Who Breathe*

Ruth Duck

TUNE: TERRA PATRIS

1. The Earth and all who breathe exist through love divine,  
who formed the sea, the flow'ring tree, the wren, the fragrant pine.  
Each woman, man, and child created from the dust  
is called to share creation's care, a sacred, living trust.
2. The good, abundant Earth is ours to tend and keep,  
yet land lies waste, consumed in haste, and hungry children weep.  
The nations proudly build new Babels to the sky.  
Their bombs destroy creation's joy; their missiles terrify!
3. Creation now awaits humanity's rebirth  
at last to claim one common aim: to nurture life on Earth.  
Awake, all humankind, the challenge now embrace,  
apply your strength, your voice, your means, as stewards of God's grace!

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## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From: *Seven Songs of Creation: Liturgies for Celebrating and Healing Earth* by Norman Habel

We believe in God who creates all things,  
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,  
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.  
We believe in God as the source of all life,  
who baptizes this planet with living water,  
who heals all the wounds of Earth.  
We believe in the book of Earth, the book of life unfolding,  
the book revealing the mysteries of God's wisdom.  
We believe in Jesus Christ as the revelation and Wisdom of God,  
Joining the web of life as human flesh,  
Jesus is the love of God immersed in the cosmos.  
We believe in an Earth community,  
a community where lives of all creatures are interconnected.  
We believe in Life forever,  
empowered by the breath of the Spirit of God,  
connected with our cosmic Christ  
and celebrated by all creation.

## PRAYERS

*Petitions are offered that end with the refrain:*

P Creator of all,  
C **teach us to care.**

*After all petitions have been offered:*

P Jesus, Incarnate one, teach us to be at one with Earth.  
C **Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the trees and the mountains. Make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit from the forests, the plains, and the winds; make our souls sensitive to the call of our kin, species in pain calling from the land, the sea, and the air. Christ, teach us to care. Amen.**

## + MEAL +

### THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C **And also with you.**

*Time to share a greeting of peace with those who are with you physically, and a virtual greeting with those who are part of your circle of concern. Today our peace sharing includes virtual greetings from a variety of Peace families.*

### OFFERING

*Your monetary gifts support the ongoing ministry of our congregation and ELCA ministries around the world. You can give an offering today by connecting to our secure [Tithely Giving Page](#). Whatever size, your gift makes a difference—thank you for your support!*

### PASS THE HAT

*Earth Ministry: Our Moral Compass*

Video

### OFFERTORY

*God of the Forest*

TUNE: GOD OF THE SPARROW

1. God of the forest, God of the soil, God of the ground beneath us  
How does the creature cry Help Us!  
How does the creature cry Save!
2. God of the cedar, God of the oak, God of the towering redwood,  
How does the creature cry Nurture!  
How does the creature cry Praise!
3. God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace?  
How does the creature say Thanks?

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*Gather all who will be participating in the Holy Communion Meal,  
along with the bread and wine/grape juice you've set aside.  
Place them in front of you, and choose someone who will lift up the elements  
at the appropriate time, following Pastor Kindem's leadership.*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

P God, our Creator,  
C **through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for all in need, including the beings with whom we share this planet home. With all creation, we bless you. Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Creator be with you.  
C **And also with you.**  
P Open your hearts.  
C **We open them to God.**  
P Let us give thanks to our Creator.  
C **It is right to join creation in thanking God.**  
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, to give thanks to you, generous and loving God. You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, die and to be raised from death to redeem humankind, to renew creation, and to reconcile all born of Earth and the Spirit.  
C **Your presence is the living impulse in all things,  
the Christ deep among us, filling every element and place;  
filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.**  
P 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 among us.  
C **Holy, holy, holy! God of all life! Earth and sea and sky are full of your presence and glorify your name! Amen.**

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe,  
for you entered creation's story in Jesus our brother,  
embracing life and conquering death, that all creation might be restored.  
In the night in which he was arrested, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his followers, saying: *(Lift bread)*  
C **Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.**

P Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying: (*Lift cup*)

C **This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
poured out for you and for all for forgiveness and healing.  
Do this to remember me.**

P With this bread and cup, O God, we remember your Son Jesus,  
the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others and his  
death and resurrection, which renews the face of the Earth.  
Send your Spirit upon all who are gathered here and upon all creation.  
Satisfy the thirst of every living thing and fit us for service as keepers and servants  
of all you have entrusted to us, through the same Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - low - ed be your  
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on  
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our  
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as  
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.  
Save us from the time of trial and de -  
liv - er us from e - vil, for the king - dom, the pow'r and the  
glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er.

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## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P As we eat this bread and drink from this cup we remember all the beings with whom we share this planet home, made sacred by the God who is in all things and in whom all things hold together. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C **God's mercy endures forever!**

*Take the gifts of bread and wine/juice into your bodies now, whether you are alone or in the company of others, giving thanks for these gifts of grace!*

## COMMUNION SOLO

*God of the Sparrow*

Jim Hunt, violin

P Now may the penetrating power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind, and your body to heal your wounds, and through you bring healing to Earth.

C **Amen.**

## + SENDING +

### THE CALL

P Christ calls you to be his disciples,  
to serve him with love and compassion,  
to serve Earth by caring for creation  
to serve by caring for all creatures.  
Will you care for creation?

C **We will care for the trees!**  
**We will nurture our planet!**  
**We will care for one another!**  
**We will celebrate life!**

## SENDING HYMN

*Rooted and Grounded in One Loving Source*

TUNE: EVENTIDE

1. Rooted and grounded in one loving Source,  
we grow by grace as seasons run their course.  
Severed from you, what good have we to give?  
Graft us to you, O God, that we may live.
2. Drawing our life from Christ, the living vine.  
we grow in love, renewed by love divine.  
Offering shade to pilgrims passing by,  
we stretch our branches, reaching to the sky.
3. Then, brought to fullness by the Spirit's pow'r  
flower and fruit appear, each in its hour.  
Sharing good news and setting captives free,  
we harvest fruits of peace and unity.

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**DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth.

C Thanks be to God!

**POSTLUDE**

*Touch the Earth Lightly*

Jim Hunt, Violin



*Next Sunday, June 21, we will be joined by Seattle Times journalist Lynda Mapes, author of *Witness Tree: Seasons of Change with a Century-Old Oak**

*Go to [PeaceLutheranSeattle.org](http://PeaceLutheranSeattle.org) to download Tree Walks in your neighborhood, along with other resources for the Season of Creation.*