

SEASON OF CREATION

From the smallest to the greatest, we are connected!



Week 3: Cosmos
June 21, 2026

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

The photo above, taken by the James Webb Space Telescope, is of “The Pillars of Creation,” a formation of hydrogen gas and dust from which new stars are born. This formation—30 trillion miles across—is located in the Eagle Nebula, 6,500 light years from Earth. When the universe’s first generation of stars reached the end of their lifespans, they collapsed and exploded, hurling essential elements for life out from their cores and setting the stage for solar systems like ours to eventually form. When we peer back into deep time, we not only see God’s fingerprints in the finetuning of the universe, we see how connected we are at every level of existence—from the smallest microorganism to the largest stellar galaxy.

✚ ✚ ✚

***In the Sacrament of the Table, our Lord Jesus meets us, fully embodied,
in the bread and wine, his body and blood. All are invited to his Table.***

+ GATHERING +

P – Presider C – Congregation L - Lector A – Assisting Minister
 ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship WOV – With One Voice ACS – All Creation Sings
 GH – Gather Comprehensive

PRELUDE

O God beyond All Praising

Chris Kindem, flute
 Jon Lackey, Piano

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *Please rise in body or spirit as the Singing Bowl calls us into worship.*

INVOCATION

- P** At every moment you draw this fruitful world into your love,
 O God of bounty, so that creatures everywhere may flourish.
- C** **You have prepared a rich table, with places for all,
 only asking that we share the gifts you provide.**
- P** In every niche, at every scale, from microscopic to cosmic, the natural world
 embodies the circle of sharing through which all receive their food in due season.
- C** **Breathe into us your generosity and lovingkindness!**
- P** Open our eyes to behold the sacred relationships between all things living.
- C** **Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.**

GATHERING HYMN

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

ACS #971



1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
 2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
 3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who

earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
 mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
 seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,

for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
 full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
 bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -

path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
 root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
 come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The grace, beauty, and abundance of the Creator be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. God, our Creator,

C **as we behold the world you brought into being, we are awed by the breadth and depth of its intricate order. Reveal your presence in the galactic nurseries of the universe, that in glimpsing your design through the grand sweep of deep time, we may better understand your infinite goodness and our call to serve all living things. In the name of Christ, in whom all things hold together and are brought to completion. Amen.**

Please be seated.

LITANY OF CONFESSION

P After midwifing this world into being, God placed humankind in Eden to till it and keep it.

C **God saw that it was good—that it was *very* good.**

P God saw that it was good, but we saw that we could exploit Eden for our purposes.

C **We confess that we have seen the natural world as a domain to be conquered rather than a Garden in which all creatures great and small have a role and place.**

P Turn us from habits that injure the communities of creatures who share our planet home.

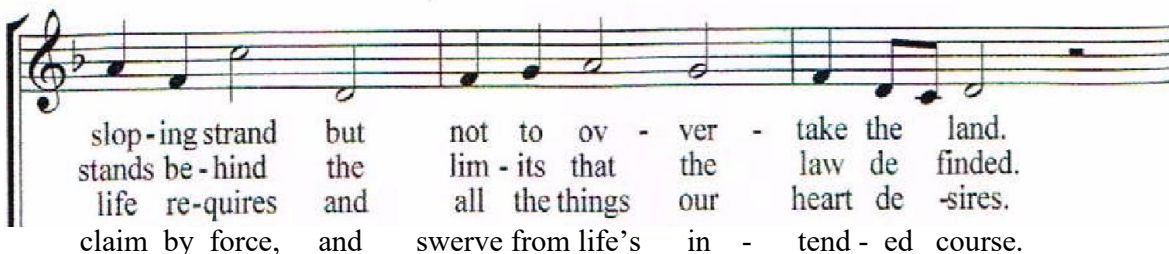
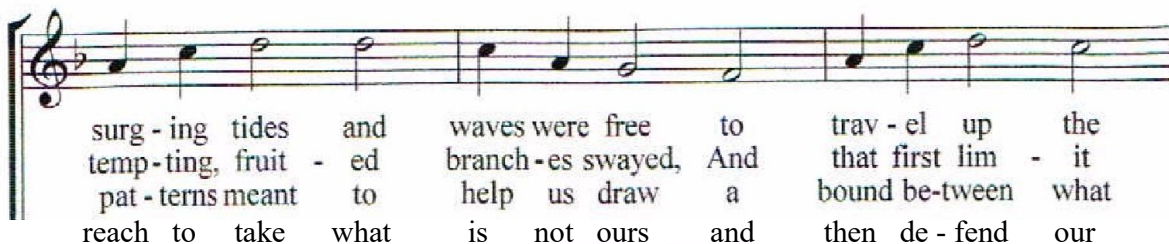
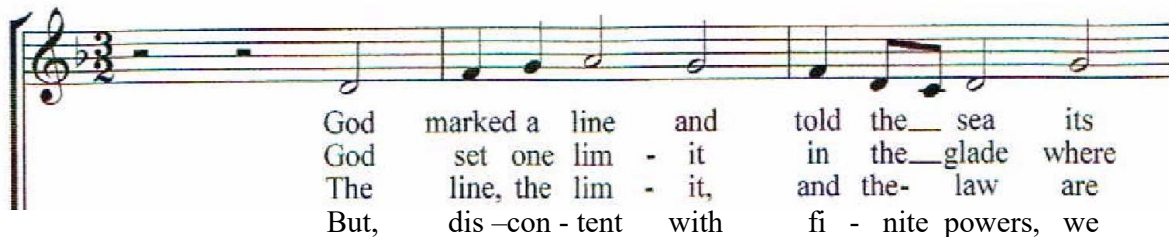
C **Turn us toward habits that restore balance and bring renewal to the habitats and watersheds we share with all living things.**

SONG OF CONFESSION

God Marked a Line, vs. 1-4

Thomas Troeger

TUNE: DISTRESS



ASSURANCE

- P** Dear Siblings, the Holy One hears our confession and offers us a way forward.
The ripples of Divine grace touch every space and reach every shore,
transforming our fear into faith and our complacency into action.
Because the risen Christ is with us still, we can begin anew to honor and love Earth.
- C** **Creator, lead us to honor and love Earth. Restore us to our calling as lovers,
partners and tenders of all that you have made. Lord, teach us to care!**

God Marked a Line, vs. 5



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Proverbs 8:22-31 *(paraphrased)*

Nancy Hauger

*In this reading from Proverbs, Wisdom (Sofia) is spoken of as
the Creator's companion from the beginning.*

The Lord created me at the very beginning, the first of God's acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up, before the beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths, when there were no springs abounding with water,
I was brought forth.

Before the mountains and hills had been shaped,
when God had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil,
I was brought forth.

When God established the heavens, I was there,
when God drew a circle on the face of the deep, and made firm the skies above,
when God established the fountains of the deep, and assigned to the sea its limit,
I was there.

I was beside God, like a little child, and I was daily God's delight;
rejoicing before God always,
rejoicing in God's inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

L Holy wisdom, Holy word.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:15-20

In this cosmic hymn the author speaks expansively of the role of Christ from creation to incarnation to consummation. The Mystery revealed in Christ is the template, model, and goal for all of creation.

¹⁵ [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.

¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

L Holy wisdom, Holy word.

C Thanks be to God.

A reading from Ilia Delio

A Franciscan sister, Ilia Delio is the author of The Unbearable Wholeness of Being: God, Evolution, and the Power of Love. This excerpt is from her chapter on love and suffering.

Creation is not a demonstration of God's boundless power but of God's boundless love, a love so great that creation is drenched in it. In the words of Angela Foligno, "*The whole creation is pregnant with God.*" We do not see this God because we are not looking for this God. We want a God who will lord it over us and be superior to us, and when we can't find such a God we invent one. But God is wholeness and depth of love, a love that does not absorb others but accepts and affirms them precisely in their otherness; true love gives true freedom to the other. To say God is love is not to find God anywhere other than where love is, in every created being, from quarks to stars to human persons. God is the whole of very whole, love bending low, hiding in the details of nature. The mystery of divine love is hidden in the other, and it is precisely in the other that God shines through...in the unbearable wholeness of being. In the world of evolving reality, everything lives between love and nothingness. That is why each being must cling to love, for love is the next creative moment of life, and everything alive is drawn to trust and surrender.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Erik

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please rise in body or spirit.*

Muscogee (Creek) Indian



P The Holy Gospel according to John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: John 8:58, Revelation 21:6

Both the gospel reading and the book of Revelation affirm Christ as the origin and goal of all things.

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I AM."

Revelation 21:6 "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Love on a Cosmic Scale

Pastor Kindem & Janet Cruse

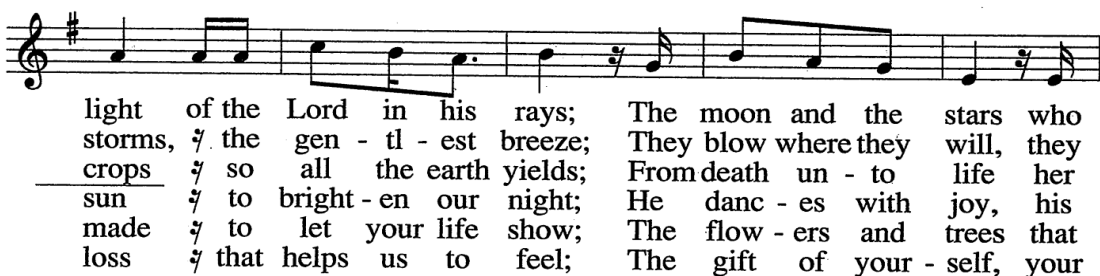
HYMN OF THE DAY

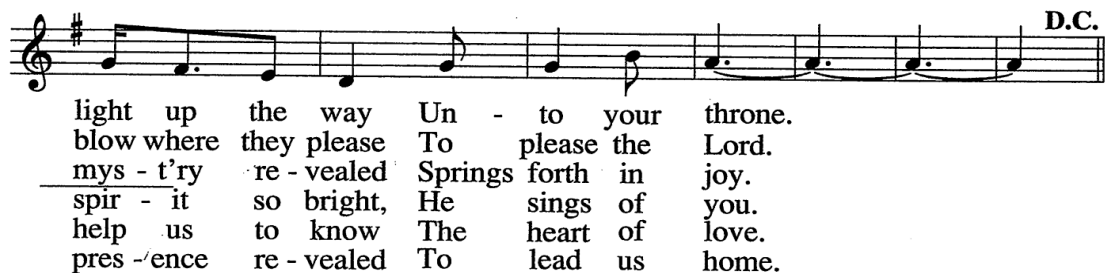
Canticle of the Sun

GH #495



1. Praise for the sun, the bring - er of day, He car - ries the
2. Praise for the wind that blows through the trees, The seas might - y
3. Praise for the rain that wa - ters our fields, And bless - es our
4. Praise for the fire who gives us his light, The warmth of the
5. Praise for the earth who makes life to grow, The crea - tures you
6. Praise for our death that makes our life real, The knowl - edge of





AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *HIGH* = high voices *LOW* = low voices

ALL God creates all things, renews all things, & celebrates all things. This we believe.

HIGH Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with all creatures. This we believe.

LOW God became incarnate, a part of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross for all human beings and for all creation. This we believe.

HIGH The risen Jesus is the Christ at the center of creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation, and filling the cosmos. This we believe.

LOW The Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of all creation. This we believe.

ALL We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Heidi Eilers

A Drawn into God's sacred embrace, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of all creatures and all creation.

Petitions are offered that end with:

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

When 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 from all our kin.
 Christ, teach us to care. Amen.

+ MEAL +

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you. *Share a gesture of peace with your neighbors.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Your financial gifts today support the ongoing ministry of our congregation, cooperative ventures of ELCA congregations throughout Western Washington, and Evangelical Lutheran ministries around the world. We invite you to give generously! You can place your gift in the offering plate, mail in a check, or connect to our secure Tithely Giving Page via this QR CODE. Whatever size, your gift makes a difference—thank you for your support!



OFFERING HYMN

ELW #740

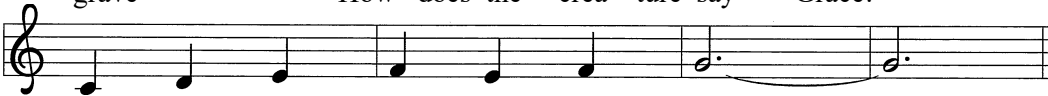
TUNE: GOD OF THE SPARROW



1 God of the mi - crobe, God of the bee, God of our lives un -
2 God of the at - om, God of the stars, God of the un - i -
3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty



fold - ing How does the crea - ture say Won - der!
verse How does the crea - ture cry Ho - ly!
grave How does the crea - ture say Grace!



How does the crea - ture say Praise!
How does the crea - ture cry Save!
How does the crea - ture say Thanks!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Great Giver,

C You shower the world with abundance, an interconnected web of life with all that is needed for life to thrive. Make us conduits of care, generosity, and joy as we share with all creatures from your abundant provision. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Creator is with you.

C And also with you.

P Open your hearts!

C We open them to our Creator!

P Let us give thanks to the maker of heaven and earth.

C It is right to join with every creature in praising God.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, to give you thanks, 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

Beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

C We praise you, O God.

P You entered creation's story in Jesus our brother,

embracing life and conquering death, that all creation might be restored.

C We thank you, O God.

P In the night in which he shared his final meal with his friends, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:

C Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

C This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of 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 renew 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 partners and tenders

of all you have entrusted to us, through the same Lord Jesus Christ,

who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(ecumenical)*

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The table is set! The feast is spread! Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

We commune processionally. Extend your hands to receive bread. A gluten free wafer is also available. Both wine (dark) and grape juice (light) are available in the ceramic cups. Place your empty cup in the box at the end of the front pew on your way back. Children are welcome to receive when their parents believe they are ready, with the support of the pastor. Any who prefer a blessing may cross their hands over their chest as they come forward.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

COMMUNION HYMN

Taste and See

ELW #493

Congregation sings refrain, Cantor sings verses

Refrain - All

Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,

taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Let us pray. 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 us to live lives of gratitude—sharing, serving, and caring. Will you care for creation? Will you share with gratitude?
- C** **We will care for creation!**
We will live with gratitude!
We will nurture our planet!
We will celebrate life!

SENDING HYMN

May Peace from the Earth Follow You

Traditional Guatemala

The peace of the earth... be with you, the
 peace of the heav-ens too; the peace of the riv - ers
 be with you, the peace of the oc-eans too. Deep
 peace fall - ing ov - er you. God's
 peace grow - ing in you.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Care for creation.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Excerpt from *The Planets: Jupiter – Bringer of Jollity*

Gustav Holst

*In consideration for those who wish to remain for the postlude,
 those who depart are invited to do so quietly.*



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Kathleen Keyes Office Admin.

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Church Office hours:

Tuesday through Thursday 10:00am-3:00pm

Nicole Klinemeier, Youth Director

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Jon Lackey, Minister of Music

Music@PeaceLutheranSeattle.org

Find us on  at **People of Peace Lutheran**

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Rev. Erik Kindem
Minister of Music	Jon Lackey
Flutist	Chris Kindem
Liturgical Assistant	Heidi Eilers
Acolyte	Mateo Leon-Stephens
Lector	Nancy Hauger
Children's Sermon	Pastor Erik
Greeters	Nancy Hauger, Jean Sides
Ushers	Alan Jarvimaki, Larry Cruse
Altar Care	Naomi Kindem
Communion Assistants	Karl Coy, Naomi Kindem
Coffee Server	Creation Care Team
Production Techs	Matthew Toso, Alex Wren
Counters	Erika Stephens, Alan Jarvimaki

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

The 2026 budget authorized by the congregation at the Annual Meeting calls for an average of \$30,017 in offering income monthly. Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the Northwest region, and internationally through the ELCA!

Offering Income received June 2026

06/07/26	\$ 3,130.00
06/14/26	\$ 1,080.00
Electronic	\$ 6,771.34
Total	\$10,981.34

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

It's Pollinator Week and this year's theme is "Life on a Leaf: Celebrating Host Plants." To support these tiny titans of life, use [Pollinator Partnership's](#) guides to plant species that support local pollinators. Or join our growing group of bee housers here at Peace!

SEASON OF CREATION: JUNE 7 – 14 – 21

This year's SEASON OF CREATION is spread over three Sundays: JUNE 7—14—21 @ 9:30am

Themes are organized around a view of Creation from MICROSCOPIC SCALE, HUMAN SCALE, and COSMIC SCALE perspectives. From the smallest microbe to the largest galaxy we are, by God's design, connected to one another! **Today's theme: *A Tour of the Cosmos.***

NEARBY OPPORTUNITIES FOR COSMIC EXPLORATION

[UW Planetarium](#) | [Department of Astronomy](#) | [University of Washington](#) 1st Friday of the month, hour long shows, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm 8pm. Registration is free but is first come first serve, opens about 1 week in advance, and fills quickly. [Planetarium - Pacific Science Center](#) All planetarium shows are free with General Admission but do require timed tickets for entry.

LANDSCAPE VISION WORKGROUP FORMING

The Church Council is looking for people to help care for our church grounds and/or to be part of a [Landscape Vision Workgroup](#) to share ideas about how to keep our plants healthy and make our church grounds more welcoming. Can you help? If so, please go to this form to answer a few questions and share your ideas and ways you can help. (This was also emailed to you recently. If you have the email, just click on the link.) <https://forms.gle/HyChz6HHACTw8tqV9>

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING JUNE 28

There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, June 28 immediately following worship to vote on approving funds for the urgent removal or abatement of a diseased tree.

The large birch outside the west entrance is infested with copper birch borer and deteriorating at a rapid rate, creating an ongoing safety risk and liability. Property Chair Larry Cruse provided this update, *"The recent windstorm brought down a medium sized branch, but also raised the likelihood that other branches may be so weakened that they are likely to break off should similar conditions occur."*

The total cost of complete tree and stump removal and the additional cost of required tree replacement was not anticipated in the budget, so we need approval from the congregation to move ahead. Cost estimates are being acquired. The Peace constitution requires a quorum of 20% of the voting membership, or 47 persons, in order to act. Please join us on June 28 to address this safety concern.

SEATTLE PRIDE PARADE SUNDAY, JUNE 28

We are proud to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation within a Reconciling in Christ synod - with many opportunities for you and your church family to join in and celebrate PRIDE this season!

Would you like to march with the NW Washington Synod in the Pride parade on Sunday June 28th?

Participation is limited to 200 people, if you are interested in attending to represent Peace Lutheran Church, please use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or email Liz Hernandez lizzardhernandez24@gmail.com

SIGN UP BY JUNE 10th, to ensure you have a spot. We are hoping to have a good turn out from our congregation! There are lots of other activities happening in our area that the Synod is encouraging folks to attend, you can find more information on this link: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/pages/pride>

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: **Sick/Recovering:** Kevin Adcock; Gary Aguilar; Georgia Apodoca; Deric Bevier; Jeff & Dolly Chale; Cindy Collie; Shelly Crisologo; Vonda Cuchine; Justin Dexter; Stephens Dooley; Jeffry Epley; Cecilia Fenton; Herman Fleck; Betty Fleck; Bob Gaines; Ann Gault; Janice Harvey; Donna Heiland; Terry Henson; Evelyn Horton; Cade Howard; Maria Iriarte; Jacqueline; Jane; Ken Keyes; Kari Kindem; Kristofer Kindem; Sandy King; Gordon Knight; Jason Knudsen; Lu Kramer; Jan Madsen; Monica; John Lindsay; Evelyn Martinez; Vicki Martinez; Helen McBride; Quinn Meeker; Erik Nelson; Juliana Outlaw; Michelle Pierce; June Killinger Poginy; Hadyn Prugh; Rebecca; Kelly Renfro; Sarah; Robert Shampain; Aaden Smith; Mark Swanson; Sarah Taylor; Allison Toso; Kristy W.; Angela Walker; Megan Webber; Willy; Boots Winterstein. **Homebound:** Connie Benjamin; Joyce Bitner; Bob Gaines; Lu Kramer; Marjorie Johnson; Helen Nesbitt; Inta Zagars. **PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST** We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME



Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world that can be filled with alienation and brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society. As a Christian community, we recognize that our congregation is strengthened by diversity, the embrace of equity, and our commitment to anti-racism. We welcome and celebrate the inclusion of those of any race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression into the life and mission of our congregation. We invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that we gather on the ancestral homeland of the DUWAMISH PEOPLE. We recognize the DUWAMISH and other SALISH PEOPLES, the FIRST STEWARDS of this land, who have called this region home—and continue to call it home—from time immemorial. We join with them and with all people who see the Earth, its creatures, watersheds, and habitats, as part of an integral whole reflecting our Creator’s intention for wholeness and balance.

PERMISSIONS

Today’s liturgy was created by Pastor Erik Kindem and the Peace Worship Team, with elements drawn from a variety of sources. See permissions below for specific information.

O God, Beyond All Praising Music: Gustav Holst. Arrangement for flute and piano by Mark Albrecht © 2000 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of OneLicense.net, License #A-708444, all rights reserved.

Invocation. From the Brothers of Weston Priory, edited with additions by EPK.

Affirmation of Faith from: *Seven Songs of Creation: Liturgies for Celebrating and Healing Earth* by Dr. Norman Habel, a Lutheran pastor, theologian, and architect of the Season of Creation.

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Be Known to Us, Lord Jesus From setting 12 of All Creation Sings © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

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May Peace from the Earth Follow You Text and music: Traditional Guatemalan hymn. Public domain

The Planets-Jupiter: Jupiter, Bringer of Jollity. Music: Gustav Holst, Conductor: Sir Adrian Boult. Public domain