

**Where Two or Three Are Gathered**  
**Worship for Smaller Assemblies**  
**Time of Creation in the Season after Pentecost**  
**Sunday, September 2 – Sunday, September 30, 2018**

**Visually**, it is a great time to incorporate signs of creation into your worship space. Hang pieces of fabric in earth colours: greens, browns, blues, but essentially any colour fits this time of creation. Emphasizing elements such as rocks/stones, wood, plants and shrubs, water, could all be part of a display(s) in the entranceway and the worship space. People of the community and especially children could be invited to bring items to add to the display and/or take an item such as a small stone to carry with them throughout the week. The table and other paraments, typically green in this season, could remain and other colours added throughout the five weeks. A simple square piece of cloth or poster board could be hung up and people could be invited to add signs of God's good creation in pictures, or words.

**Music** for these Sundays can include songs from the creation section of ELW, No.730 – 740 and the subject index on "creation," page 1180. There are both very familiar songs like:

No. 733 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness,"  
No. 835 "All Creatures Worship God Most High"  
No. 879 "For the Beauty of the Earth"  
No. 836 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"  
No. 556 "Morning Has Broken"  
No. 824 "This is My Father's World;"

And newer songs with melodies that can be easily sung:

No. 734 "God Whose Firm Is All Creation"  
No. 735 "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"  
No. 739 "Touch the Earth Lightly"  
No. 837 "Many and Great, O God"

A particular creation song could be repeated each of the five Sundays, as an offering song, or at various times in the worship.

**The readings** –for a smaller gathering you may consider using two of the readings, highlighted in bold

**September 2, 2018**

**Song of Solomon 2:18-13** – The writer references images of creation to describe feelings for the beloved

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

James 1:17-27

**Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

**September 9**

**Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23**

Psalm 125

James 2:1-13, 14-17

**Mark 7:24-37**

**September 16**

Proverbs 1:20-33

**Psalm 19** – “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker’s handwork.”

James 3:1-12

**Mark 8:27-38**

**September 23**

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalm 1 – “They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season...”

**James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a**

**Mark 9:30-37**

**September 30**

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Psalm 124

**James 5:13-20**

**Mark 9:38-50**

**A suggested order for the Time of Creation****GATHERING****Opening Song**

**Prayer of the Day** - The Prayer of the Day may include an additional prayer for the season of creation, such as: ELW p. 63 “Stewardship of Creation”; p. 81 “Creation” section

**WORD****Reading**

**Gospel Acclamation** – No. 172 or 173

**Gospel reading****Sermon/reflection****Hymn of the Day**

**Prayers of Intercession** – A helpful general form of the Prayers may be found in ELW p.304. You may use the response” “F or the good of all creation; **Hear our prayer**”

On Sundays when Holy Communion is not celebrated the worship may conclude as follows:

**The Lord’s Prayer****Sharing the peace**

**Offering and offering prayer** – ELW p.64 “General”

**Blessing**

*The Blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Spirit of new life,  
be with us and all creation,  
now and forever.*

**Amen.**

**Sending Song****Dismissal**

*Go in peace, give thanks and care for the earth. **Thanks be to God.***

When the worship includes Holy Communion, it continues as follows:

## **MEAL**

### **Sharing the Peace**

**Offering and offering prayer** – ELW p.64 “General”

### **Great Thanksgiving**

*God be with you. **And also with you.***

*Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.***

*Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

**Preface** – the following preface may be used:

*It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O God, creator of all, through Christ our Lord. Who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection open to all creation the way of everlasting life. And so with the church on earth, all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn*

**Holy** – ELW No.473 may be sung

**Thanksgiving prayer** – prayer IX ELW p.68 or prayer X ELW p.69 are appropriate

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Communion**

## **SENDING**

### **Blessing**

*The Blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Spirit of new life,  
be with us and all creation,  
now and forever.*

**Amen.**

**Sending Song**

**Dismissal**

*Go in peace, give thanks and care for the earth. **Thanks be to God.***