

Where Two or Three Are Gathered
Worship for Smaller Assemblies
Time of Creation in the Season after Pentecost
Sunday, September 1 - Sunday, September 29, 2019

Visually, it is a great time to incorporate signs of creation into your worship space. Hang pieces of fabric or use paraments and vestments in earth colours, emphasise elements such as rocks/stones, wood, plants and shrubs, water, around the Baptismal font, in the entranceway and the worship space. Invite people from the community and especially children to bring items to add to the display. Plant wheat or other seeds on the first Sunday so the green of new growth is visually present later in the month. Explore the possibility of an “earth loom” www.earthloom.org for community participation.

Music for these Sundays may include songs from the creation section: ELW 730 - 740, and the subject index on “creation,” page 1180.

Possible songs to consider:

733 Great Is Thy Faithfulness
835 All Creatures Worship God Most High
879 For the Beauty of the Earth
836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
556 Morning Has Broken
838 Beautiful Saviour
824 This is My Father's World
734 God Whose Farm Is All Creation
735 Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth
739 Touch the Earth Lightly
837 Many and Great, O God

O Living Breath of God (ELW 407), which bring together creation and baptism, could be used each week as the Opening Song following Thanksgiving for Baptism.

Many and Great, O God (ELW 837) which makes both an indigenous and environmental connection, could be repeated as a children's song/for the children's message, or on each of the five Sundays, as an offering song.

Readings - for a smaller gathering you may consider using two of the readings, highlighted in bold with some possible connections to the theme of creation

September 1, 2019

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalm 81:1, 10-16

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 - mutual love, contentment, doing good and sharing, includes care for creation

Luke 14:1, 7-14 - humble, related to the word humus, ground, soil, of which we are created

September 8

Jeremiah 18:1-11 - the prophet's judgement if we do not turn from our ways and doings - or

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 - being fully known and marvellously made

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33 - carrying the cross/following Jesus includes counting the cost of environmental destruction

September 15

Jeremiah 4:11-21, 22-28 - a desolate landscape is a sign of God's judgement, but not the end

Psalm 14

1Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10 - finding that which was lost is God's desire in Jesus, so also ours for all creation

September 22

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 - God grieves over the poor people with a fountain of tears

Psalm 79:1- 9

1Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13 - Jesus' parable speaks of faithfulness as managers of what is not ours

September 29

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 - in the midst of destruction Jeremiah buys land as a sign of hope or...

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 - there is shelter and protection under God's wings or...

1Timothy 6:6-19 - fight the good fight of faith in love, endurance, gentleness for all creation

Luke 16:19-31 - Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus expresses God's enduring concern that all have enough, and God provides enough for all

A suggested order for the Time of Creation

GATHERING

Acknowledgment of Lands - acknowledging the traditional indigenous lands on which you gather is a recommendation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and of our church, and makes a connection to the lands of indigenous and non-indigenous people share in trust.
Thanksgiving for Baptism - page 97, emphasizing the gift of water and the life it gives
Opening Song - "O Living Breath of God" ELW 407
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 - ELW 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 "For 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

THANKSGIVING

Offering and offering prayer - ELW p.64 "General"

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.***

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 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.