

**St. John's Reformed Church
September 25, 2022 - 10:00 A.M.
Ordinary Time - Creation Season**

*This liturgy was adapted closely from **The Climate Project** which is a campaign of the Office of Social Justice and World Renew of the CRC. The Call to Confession was crafted in part by Terry and Lauren Laibach. The Season of Creation is a time during the liturgical calendar in which churches across the globe renew their relationship with God and all of creation and commit to prayer and action for our common home. Starting on September 1 and ending on October 4—the Feast of St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology—the church praises God for Creation's beauty, focuses on their call as caretakers, and laments the brokenness and the groaning of all creation.*

(Please join responsively by speaking aloud the bolded sections.)

Pre-Prelude
Announcements and Hospitality

*Jane Bier, Organist
Pastor Alisha*

Our Approach to God

Prelude
Votum:

*Jane Bier, Organist
Mary Bayer, Liturgist*

Creator God, we ponder this morning how your Word spoke creation into being, how your Spirit breathed life into every living creature. Receive now our praise in concert with the symphony of praise sung by trees and fields on earth, and saints and angels in heaven—all offered through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*Call to Worship:

Leader: Worship the LORD in holy splendor: Tremble before him, all the earth...

People: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The Lord is king."

Leader: Let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the field exult and everything in it.

People: Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord. Let everything praise the Lord, praise the Lord forever!

*Hymn *All Creatures of Our God and King* #551 vs 1-3 *Lyrics*

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

Verse 1:

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!

Verse 2:

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!

Verse 3:

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!

Salutation & Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Alisha

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, **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Mary Bayer, Liturgist

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.

(In silence, we lament the brokenness in Creation.)

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. We crave convenience in our lifestyles, even at the expense of the health of our planet. We rely heavily on fossil fuels, create too much waste, blight our landscapes in the name of progress, and witness much of our world's clean water at risk through weather extremes and industrial pollution. Forgive us, God, for the broken relationship with the earth which you lovingly gave us to sustain 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.

Kyrie Eleison

Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor Alisha

Summary of the Law: Romans 8:22-25, NRSV

May the Spirit guide us to be obedient to this Word. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen

Musical meditation

Piano & Organ Duet, "Fairest Lord Jesus", *Jane Bier, Organist & Mary Bayer, Pianist*

The Word of God in Proclamation

Lesson from the Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-25 (pg. 1)

Mary Bayer, Liturgist

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Lesson from the Psalms: Psalm 18

Leader: Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of oceans far away.

People: You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.

Leader: You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

People: Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

Leader: You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

People: You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

Leader: You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

People: You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

Leader: May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.

People: May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn *All on Earth and All in Heaven* #922 vs 1,2,

*Gospel Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14 (page 192)

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Prayer for Blessing

Our Response to God's Grace

Confession of Faith: Our World Belongs to God, st. 5-6

Mary Bayer, Liturgist

Leader: God holds this world with fierce love. Keeping God's promise, Jesus was sent into the world, the Holy Spirit was poured out and good news was announced—

People: As people who repent and believe in Jesus, we are to live anew as members of the family of God—the firstfruits of a new creation. We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living.

Leader: As covenant partners, set free for joyful obedience, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in the world. With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord.

People: We are confident that the light that shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears again. Come, Lord Jesus. Our world belongs to you.

*The Peace, The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
The Offering

*Doxology
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)
**People: Dear God, wherever we look, From next door to a world away,
We see the places where your creation groans.
May these gifts be a faithful response to those cries. Amen.**

Prayers for the People of God
The Lord's Prayer (use 'trespasses')

*Hymn *All Creatures of our God and King* #551 v6

Verse 6:

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

Benediction

*Congregational Amen “Go Now in Peace”

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with us each hour of every day.

Go now in faith steadfast strong and true.

Know he will guide us in all we do.

Go now in love, and show we believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith and, in love.

*Postlude

Jane Bier, Organist

**Indicates congregation to stand if able.*