

Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church, 2006 60th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin

October 3, 2020

Gathering Liturgy for Last Sunday in Season of Creation

CALL TO WORSHIP

P ‘But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you;

...and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

In his hand is the life of very living thing...’ (Job 12: 7, 8b, 10a)

C Amen.

P God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.”

So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind, cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind.” And God blessed them.

God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. (from Genesis 1)

OPENING PRAYER

P Come, let us gather together.

C Let us join the gathering: we bring fins and feathers.

P Come, all is ready for all of creation.

C Let us join the gathering: we bring scales and fur.

P Come, let us praise our Creator.

C We are loved: we bring skin.

P Come, with fins, feathers, scales, fur and skin.

As we gather, we are mindful that, as part of God’s creation, we wish the best for one another. Within this faith community we express this in prayer, and through blessing. Let us pass God’s blessing among one another: Peace be with you!

C And also with you.

In + Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God’s forgiveness is good news of great joy!

C Amen.

P “All creatures of our God and King Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.”

Let us sing together, hymn 835.

GATHERING SONG: “All Creatures, Worship God Most High” (ELW #835) vv. 1 & 2

1: *All creatures, worship God most high!*

Sound every voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;

sing, sister moon and stars of night:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2: *Sing, brother wind: with clouds and rain*

you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear sister water, useful, clear, make music for your Lord to hear:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Creator God, You have made a beautiful world filled with wonder and surprises!

C We adore you.

P Creator God who has gifted us with the blessing of animals, those in the wild, those on farms, those in our own homes,

C We adore you.

P Creator God, you brought into being that which we could not imagine for ourselves, life we

cannot see without the aid of microscopes, animals we can only see in pictures from remote regions of this planet earth,

C We adore you.

P We thank you for abundant life; for the birds we hear in the morning, for the drone of the bees when we are outside, for the vast tapestry of life which is interwoven,

C We give you thanks.

P We thank you for the gift of our own animal companions; For the joy they bring us, For the unconditional love and forgiveness which teaches us about you; For the confidant, the listener, the stress-releaser, For the benefits they are to our health—and to our Spirit.

C We give you thanks.

P And yet, we know that we have not always been faithful caretakers of our animals; Forgive us when we have dirtied their environment, erased places of shelter, polluted the waters, killed off their food supplies or neglected to feed or tend animals in our own communities. Forgive us when we have neglected our own animal companions; when we have said we are too busy to play with them, when we have shooed them away; when we have made excuses, saying we are too tired...too busy...more important engagements have come up...so that we do not walk them, cuddle them, spend time with them.

C Forgive us.

P Forgive us when we have not loved them as they have

loved us. Forgive us when we have not considered the wider picture; when we have neglected the animals in the wild, the cruelty inflicted in the name of 'sport', or in the name of food production. Forgive us when we have focused only on our 'favorites' and neglected the care of the supposedly less beautiful, those who hold a lower public profile. Each year more animals are becoming extinct, or are added to the endangered species list: forgive us, for allowing beauty to be forever destroyed.

C Forgive us when we neglect to see all animals as part of your creation, forgive us when we neglect



to acknowledge that your love beats in all hearts, and that you give breath to all creation.

P God is love. Through Christ your sins are forgiven Take hold of this forgiveness, And live your life, knowing that you are forgiven, and deeply loved. Know that the

Holy Spirit will enable you to live fully, richly, and deeply.

C Amen

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)
This is the feast of victory for our God.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.*

This is the feast of victory for our God.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:*

*Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever.
Amen.*

*For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia.*

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Readings for the Last Sunday of Season of Creation

Psalms 104:24-25, 27-28, 30-31

²⁴How manifold are your works,
O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,**

living things both small and great. ...

²⁷All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.

28 You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things. ...

30 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever; O LORD, rejoice in all your works.

Galatians 5:22–23

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

Gospel: Matthew 6:25–26

Jesus said, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or

about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.



Are you not of more value than they?”

Creed, Prayers, and Communion Liturgy

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Let All Things Now Living” (ELW #881)

*1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.*

*2: God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
“To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!”*

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CREED

P God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things.

C **This we believe.**

P Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

C **This we believe.**

P God became flesh and blood, 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.

C **This we believe.**

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

C **This we believe.**

P The Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

C **This we believe.**

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

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYERS: “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” (ELW #752)

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

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PRAYERS

P Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Holy One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians (*specific individuals known to the congregation may be named*), that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P You have established a diverse and beautiful creation. Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands. Cultivate in us a sense of wonder for the world you created. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P You desire for us not to be alone and to live in community with one another. Strengthen relationships between nations and peoples, that we celebrate and support one human family. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P You share in our experiences and struggles. Bless all who live with any mental or physical disability. *especially:*

- Mary Andrews (Welcome Center volunteer from St. Anthony's)
- Dawn Bench (Welcome Center volunteer)
- Doug Becker (Marlene Binninger's son)
- Pat Bernacchi
- Jackie Brichacek (Nancy's sister-in-law)
- Jean Boothe (Grace soup kitchen supervisor)
- Hank Buehrens
- Andrew Calvert
- Pat Calvert
- Barb Caputo
- Holly Cummings
- Eric Dangerfield (Carolyn Reynold's boyfriend)
- Connie, mother of Welcome Center volunteer Lynda Eirich
- Gregory Foster
- Steve Gapko
- Shirleen Gulick
- Aggie Hartnell (Bert Felland's mother)
- Christine Hill
- Sydney Houston
- Jacqueline & David Kramer
- David Kristopeit (Nancy's brother-in-law)
- Dean O'Hanlon
- Carolyn Reynold's children Eddie, Santino, and Lytoshia
- Martha, Joel, and Jeanette Sanchez
- Cynthia Schwartz (Norma's daughter)
- Marcia Swanson
- Joyce Swift
- Linda Wadham
- Florence and Jacqueline Walker (Carolyn's sisters)
- Dottie Watts
- Kristi Weiss (Rollie's daughter);
Inspire creative communities, spaces, and environments that are accessible and hospitable. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us (*especially...*) and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Loving God, We bring to you the prayers of the people. Today we offer up prayers for those involved in animal welfare and conservation work: for the RSPCA, for Earth Watch, World Wildlife Fund, Animals Asia, our local animal shelters [*adapt to suit community and community focus/interest*] We pray for those who are working at policy and project levels, and for those tending to the needs of animals.

We pray for farmers—that the animals in their care are treated with dignity and respect.

We pray for the strays on our streets; help us not to turn away, but to bring them to a place of safety, where they can be fed, given medical treatment, and the chance to find a loving home.

Help us to be generous: with money, time, and the offer of hospitality within our homes.

We pray for vets and vet practices: enable your wisdom and compassion to be evident wherever there are sick or dying animals. Enable the animals to sense your presence.

Comfort grieving owners; allow the many warm memories to break the frost of grief. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P You promise eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the people of faith who have gone before us. *We remember today our sister Dorothy Keuffer, and our brother Mike Swift.* Strengthen our trust we have in you. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING OF PETS; REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

PEACE

P Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

C **We meet in Christ's name and share God's peace.**

P The peace of the Lord be always with you.

C **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING We Give Thee but Thine Own (ELW #686)

1: *We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and as signs of our concern for peoples in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth.

C **With all creation we praise our Creator.**

DIALOGUE & PREFACE

P The Creator be with you and all creation.

C **And also with you.**

P Open your hearts.

C **We open them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and Earth.

C **It is right to join creation in thanking God.**

P It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator. Your word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars, and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth, and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit. Your Spirit is the life impulse in all things, renewing the barren and healing the wounded, groaning in anticipation of a new creation, stirring a new life born of water and the Spirit.

You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, die, and rise from death—to redeem humankind, to renew creation, and to affirm all born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your presence is the living impulse in all things, the Christ deep among us, filling Earth—land, sea, and air—filling every element and place, filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels, 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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ACS p. 37)

P O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song: The earth is full of your glory.

C **The earth is full of your glory.**

P O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song: The earth is full of your glory.

C **The earth is full of your glory.**

P We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song: The earth is full of your glory.

C **The earth is full of your glory.**

P O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead.

Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again: The earth is full of your glory.

C **The earth is full of your glory.**

P Amen, and amen.

C **Amen, and amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven:**

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal.

COMMUNION SONG

*Lamb of God, who takes away all sin against God,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away all sin against
Earth, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away all sin from the
world,
receive our prayer.*

SONG DURING COMMUNION: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" (W&P #95)

1: *Make me a channel of your peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.*

2: *Make me a channel of your peace.*

*Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.*

3: *O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

4: *Make me a channel of your peace.*

*It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.*

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

P Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

P Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

God, our Creator, help us to love all creatures as kin, all animals as partners on Earth, all birds as messengers of praise, all minute beings as expressions of your mysterious design, and all frogs as voices of hope. Amen (Norman Habel)

SENDING SONG: "Mother Earth, Our Mother Birthing" vv. 1 & 2

1 *Mother Earth, our mother birthing
Every creature on the land
Jesus too was flesh and breathing,
Kin to all every greening plant.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.*

2. *Sister Air, our sister lifting
Every creature born with wing;
Jesus shared the breath of forests,
Breath that makes our spirits sing.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.*

Words: © Norman Habel 1999

DISMISSAL

P Go out into the world, love one another. Cherish your animal family, protest against abuse and neglect of our animals; exercise stewardship of ALL creation, so that ALL can experience God's Shalom.

Go out into the world, my horizontal and vertical brothers and sisters in Christ. In the name of the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit,

C Thanks be to God.

Portions of this liturgy may be found at <http://www.letalcreationpraise.org/united-states-ecumenical/word-series-b>

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Bulletins and Flowers

We thank Nancy Perry for sponsoring this Sunday's worship service bulletins in memory of Michael Swift, her brother.

The altar flowers this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by Pastor Dick and Kathy Bidwell in thanksgiving for all the pets we have loved.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Oct. 15: Clinton & Sandra Steele (55)
 Oct. 16: Joyce Swift
 Oct. 17: Pastor Jonathan Barker

Oct. 27: Kimberly & Brian Schneider (9)
 Oct. 31: Aria Hill

Grace Offerings September 26, 2020

General offering\$ 1,781.00
 Parking lot maintenance\$ 30.00
 Altar flowers\$ 40.00
 From non-members:
 for Pastor benefits package\$ 50.00
 non-designated.....\$ 115.00
Minus banking fees\$ (2.50)
 Total\$ 2,013.50

Grace weekly budget: \$2,943.20

Notes: Nominal banking fees are charged on financial transactions made through DonorBox on Grace's web site.

Please remember to mail in your offering checks to Grace if you are not worshipping here in person. You can also contribute electronically through the "Donations" link at GraceKenosha.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="font-size: 2em;">October, 2021</h1>					1 8:00-9:15 am Grace Welcome Center	2
3 9:30 am Worship service 10:45 am New member class 7:00 pm NA	4 St. Francis 9:00 am-12:00 Pantry packing	5 9:00 am-12:00 Pantry packing 4:00-5:30 pm Food pantry	6 	7 8:00-9:15 am Grace Welcome Center 2:00-5:00 pm Infant Moses	8 8:00-9:15 am Grace Welcome Center	9 11:00 am D. Keuffer visitation 12:00 noon D. Keuffer funeral
10 9:30 am Worship service 10:45 am New member class 7:00 pm NA	11 9:00 am-12:00 Pantry packing	12 9:00 am-12:00 Pantry packing 4:00-5:30 pm Food pantry	13	14 8:00-9:15 am Grace Welcome Center 2:00-5:00 pm Infant Moses	15 8:00-9:15 am Grace Welcome Center	16
17 9:30 am Worship service 10:45 am New member class 7:00 pm NA	18 St. Luke 9:00 am-12:00 Pantry packing	19 9:00 am-12:00 Pantry packing 4:00-5:30 pm Food pantry	20 	21 8:00-9:15 am Grace Welcome Center 2:00-5:00 pm Infant Moses	22 8:00-9:15 am Grace Welcome Center	23
24 United Nations Day 9:30 am Worship service 10:45 am New member class 7:00 pm NA	25 9:00 am-12:00 Pantry packing	26 9:00 am-12:00 Pantry packing 4:00-5:30 pm Food pantry	27	28 Sts. Simon & Jude 8:00-9:15 am Grace Welcome Center 2:00-5:00 pm Infant Moses	29 8:00-9:15 am Grace Welcome Center	30
31 Reformation Day 9:30 am Worship service 7:00 pm NA	Nov. 1 <i>All Saints' Day</i> 9:00 am-12:00 Pantry packing	2 <i>Día de los muertos</i> 9:00 am-12:00 Pantry packing 4:00-5:30 pm Food pantry	3 	4 8:00-9:15 am Grace Welcome Center 2:00-5:00 pm Infant Moses	5 8:00-9:15 am Grace Welcome Center	NOVEMBER 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Grace Lutheran Church
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www.GraceKenosha.com

Worship services livestreamed at www.facebook.com/GraceElcaKenosha/

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Church office: graceoffice@wi.rr.com ☎ 262-654-9143

Office hours: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday

New Member Classes Begin

New member classes start this Sunday, October 3, continuing on the next three Sundays. Please contact Rev. Barker or the church office if you are interested in joining the Grace family.

Welcome Center Needs You

The Grace Welcome Center invites your help in any of a number of ways.

The Center needs help funding five carts and two shelves. The carts, used to take donations from the foot of the entryway stairs to wherever they need to be stored, cost \$105 each. The shelves cost \$200.

Cloth, paper, or homemade masks are welcome, both for volunteers and for our guests. Masks can be dropped off at the church Monday and Tuesday from 9:00 to noon, Tuesday from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m., and Thursday

and Friday from 7:00 to 9:30 a.m.

And lastly, We are in need of male volunteers to lift boxes.

If you are retired, or working second or third shift, we need your help Mondays anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, and Tuesday anytime between 3:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Thank you so much!



Photo by David Underwood