

September 19th, 2021 – Sky Sunday

Announcements:

Introit: *Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary MV 18*

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true; with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Opening Prayer:

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied this land we are upon. We give thanks to the Coast Salish peoples, the first people of this land. Creator let us be of good mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and those who have been displaced. With thankful and respectful hearts we pray. **Amen**

Opening Hymn and Procession “Come, O God of All the Earth” CP 589 (v. 1, 2, 4)

**1. Come, O God of all the earth; come to us, O Righteous One;
Come, and bring our love to birth in the glory of your Son.**

Refrain:

*Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you.
Raise your joyful cries! Dance to the life around you!*

**2. Come, O God of wind and flame; fill the earth with righteousness;
Teach us all to sing your name: may our lives your love confess. *Refrain:***

**4. Come, O God of snow and rain: shower down upon the earth;
Come, O God of joy and pain, God of sorrow, God of mirth. *Refrain:***

Call to Worship:

We invite the sky to worship with us:
the subtle orange skies at dawn and the bold red skies at sunset.

We join the heavens in praising God:
**Proclaiming God's glory across the globe
and hailing God's name with the evening stars.**

We join with the atmosphere in worship:
the air, the moisture, the oxygen, the wind and all the expressions of God's Spirit.

We call the clouds to celebrate with storms:
to carry the life giving drops of rain, that give hope and healing to Earth.

We invite the winds to join our petitions:
to carry our prayers to God above and breathe our hopes to Christ in person.

We invite the birds of the air to join us in praise
Songbirds and seagulls Tiny hummingbirds and giant condors

We celebrate the song of the skies! **Sing! Skies! Sing!**

Sung Gloria (CP 376)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia! *(repeat)*

Children's time:

Song: *Kumbayah, my Lord, Kumbayah*

**Someone's crying Lord, Kumbaya
Someone's crying Lord, Kumbaya
Someone's crying Lord, Kumbaya
O Lord Kumbaya**

The Collect:

God, our Creator, as we look into the skies we celebrate the wonders of the worlds that surround us. Help us to see your presence in the evening sky, your spirit in the wind, your mercy in the falling rain. Teach us to hear the good news from the sky celebrating the glory of God in Earth. Rejoice with us as we behold the dawn revealing the mysteries of the skies above and Earth below. In the name of Christ who unites heaven and Earth. Amen

The First Reading: *Jeremiah 4.23-28 (Merle McKee)*

Psalm: *19.1-6 (Don Paul)*

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows the handiwork of the Lord.
2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
4 their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world
5 In the deep has God set a pavilion for the sun; *
**it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.**
6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Reading: *Philippians 2.9-13 (Wan Li Zhang)*

Gradual Hymn: “Lovely Star in the Sky” VU 94 (v. 1, 2)

**1. Lovely star in the sky, banishing the night,
shine down and hallow us; Light our dark path.
Star shining in the east, be our true guide,
lead us to worship him, worship the Child.**

**2. Infant Love lying there, dew upon his bed,
With all the animals sleeping in hay;
Angels sing reverently, worship their God,
Lowly in the majesty, Child of the world.**

The Holy Gospel: *(Roger Farrier)*

May God be with you.
And also with you.

Mark 15.33-39

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: The Rev. Marnie Peterson

~ A minute of silence for reflection & prayer. ~

Creation Creed:

We believe **that God creates all things,
renews all things, and celebrates all things.**

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, **a sacred planet filled with God’s presence,
a home for us to share with all creatures. We believe every creature joins us
in praising God.**

We believe that God became incarnate as a part of Earth, **Jesus Christ,
that he lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross,
for all human beings and for all creation.**

We believe that the risen Jesus Christ fills the whole creation,
**Reconciling all things to God, renewing all things. We believe the Spirit renews life in
creation, groans in empathy with every suffering creature, and waits with us for the
rebirth of the whole creation.**

We believe **that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation, reconciled, restored, and renewed.**

Prayers of the People: *(Brigitte Stavrou)*

Confession and Absolution:

We remember the air that God has wrapped around our planet. Air that supports all that lives on this world. And we confess that we have treated the life of this planet with disrespect and have abused God's world. We confess that we have used the precious atmosphere as a dumping ground for our waste without consideration of what that would do to your world. Jesus Christ, breath of life, hear our cry.

We regret that we have become alienated from Earth and have treated your world as a beast to be tamed, as a domain to be dominated, and as a place to be ruled for our gain.

We remember and confess how we have violated and polluted this world's skies.

We are sorry. We have polluted the air with our waste and toxins.

We have dumped greenhouse gases into the skies without consideration for the delicate balance of life. We are sorry. We are sorry.

Christ hears your confession and forgives your sins. Christ calls you now to open your ears and your hearts to revive rather than to desecrate the skies enveloping our planet.

Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home and all living creatures as our kin.

God calls you to care for this planet with love. Just as God has nurtured you, so you are called to nurture and protect the skies. Join with God in healing creation.

The Peace:

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory song: *"Let's Sing unto the Lord" CP 417(v. 1, 2)*

**1. Let's sing unto the Lord a hymn of glad rejoicing.
Let's sing a hymn of love, joining hearts and happy voices.
God made the sky above, the stars, the sun, the oceans.
Their goodness does proclaim the glory of God's name.**

Refrain:

Alleluia, Alleluia! Let's sing unto the Lord. Alleluia! (Sung 2x)

**2. Let's sing unto the Lord a hymn of adoration,
express unto the Lord our songs of faith and hope.
Creation's broad display proclaims the work of grandeur,
the boundless love of One who blesses us with beauty. Refrain:**

Prayer over the gifts:

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our thanksgiving and as a sign of our concern for those in need, including all our fellow creatures on planet Earth.

The Lord's Prayer:

As our Saviour taught us, let us sing.

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.

Blessing:

Closing Hymn: "We Are Marching in the Light of God VU 646 (1. Marching; 2. praying, 3. Singing)

**1. We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching in the light of God,
We are marching, we are marching in the light of God.**

**2. We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God.
We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God.
We are praying, we are praying in the light of God,
We are praying, we are praying in the light of God.**

**2. We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God.
We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God.
We are singing, we are singing in the light of God,
We are singing, we are singing in the light of God**

Dismissal: *(Roger Farrier)*

Go in peace, serving Christ and loving the Earth.
Thanks be to God.