



Summer Worship Series at Moe Theme for July 20, 2025 ~ Flora & Fauna

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP:

This is the day that the Lord has made!

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

God's steadfast love surrounds us in earth, air, and fire;
in water, flora, and fauna.

We REST in connection with all of God's creation.

Christ came among us, with breath and movement
and feet that touched the earth.

We YEARN for connection with all of God's creation.

The Holy Spirit moves among us, as close as our very breath.

We MOVE in connection with all of God's creation.

OPENING SONG: *"This is My Father's World"*

ELW 824

GREETING: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY: God of new birth, you bring forth life again and again. Give us faith to know that goodness is stronger than evil, and life is stronger than death. Help us take our place in the family of your creation, and connect us to all who share this earth together. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 8

¹ O Lord, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.

² **Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴ **what are humans that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**

⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶ **You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,**

⁷ all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,

⁸ **the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

⁹ O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
 Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson
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GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 12:22-34

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²² He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵ And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰ For it is the nations of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of creation,
we seek to be one with you
and all you have made.
Be near us in our disconnection,
and bring us into right relationship
with all of your good creation.
Give us open hearts, open hands,
and compassion for all
as we confess our brokenness,
receive your forgiveness,
and remember our connection with every living thing.
Amen.

(Silence for reflection)

Let us confess our disconnection, brokenness,
and sin before our Creator God. God of love...

**We confess that we have not treated your creation
as something to be valued.
You ask us to receive, and yet we extract;
you ask us to live in peace, and yet we seek to control.**

**Forgive us in our disconnection from creation,
known and unknown to us.
Give us hearts to seek the thriving of all.**

**Through your goodness,
transform our pridefulness into humility,
and our death into life.**

Beloved people of God's creation:
God has declared you “good,”
along with the fish of the sea
and the sun that warms us.

In the name of Christ, ✠ you are forgiven,
washed in the earth's abundant water, and given new life.

Our God calls us out of disconnection
to be rooted and grounded in love,
caring for one another and for all of creation. **Amen!**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

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:

God of abundance, We give you thanks for the gifts of the earth and the gifts of your people. Knit us together as one in you that we may know connection, joy, and peace with all of creation. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God of creation.
You birthed the planets and galaxies,
you filled the earth with soil and water,
you gave life to plants and animals.
You give us water, air, grace, and love
to nourish us day by day.
You breathe life into our bodies,
and you came to live among us on this earth
in the form of Jesus, your beloved child.

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.

In this meal, we remember your Son Jesus,
who walked on this soil,
who is the living water,
the bread of life,
the true vine,
the sower of the seeds.

Send the breath of your Spirit to this meal,
and fill us all, in every time and place,
with the fire of your love. **Amen.**

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

HOLY COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the abundance of your created world. As we receive your gifts, send us into your creation to echo back your joy and mercy. In the name of Christ, the holy one, we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING:

May the God who holds creation tenderly bless you, keep you, and fill you with life, in the name of Christ, who grounds us, loves us, and draws us into joy. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG: “How Great Thou Art” (Verses 1-3) **ELW 856**

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace, care for creation.
Thanks be to God!

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Creation activities for this week!

Grounded In Creation- Week 5: Flora 🌸

Touch – Take a walk and gently touch a few plants. Notice the textures and how they feel on your fingertips. Can you sense their quiet, healing presence?

Taste – Choose a plant-based meal or snack. Smell it, touch it, and eat slowly with intention. Can you taste the earth, water, and sunlight that nurtured it? Give thanks for this nourishment.

Smell – Spend a few minutes truly smelling nearby flowers or plants. Close your eyes and breathe deeply. What emotions or memories arise? Can you carry this kind of presence into other moments today?

Hear – Step outside, close your eyes, and just listen. What do you hear—birds, wind, traffic? Tune in to the natural sounds and give thanks for the symphony of life around you.

See – Return to a favorite outdoor spot. Slowly observe the plants and animals. Reflect on your connection to this place. What small act can you take today to care for creation with compassion and intention?

