



## **Week 1: Climate and Water September 7, 2025**

### **WELCOME**

### **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion toward all who call this place home.

### **COMMUNITY LIFE**

Every year in September, we join with people around the world in celebrating the Season of Creation, a time when we consider how God calls us to care for the earth and for one another.

This year, Good Shepherd will join congregations across Canada in CLWR's Friends of Creation campaign. Over four Sundays, we'll reflect on God's call to steward the earth by looking at how climate intersects with food, water, peace, and local economies around Lake Chad, at the frontlines of climate change. Together, we'll reflect, pray, and have a chance to take action to help restore land and livelihoods in one of the world's most vulnerable regions.

With matching grants, every \$50 raised can restore 1 acre of land around Lake Chad. Our Good Shepherd goal to restore 50 acres of land around Lake Chad, so our target is to raise \$2500 before the end of the year. Every dollar helps!

### **OTHER COMMUNITY LIFE ITEMS**

**Lunch & Hymn Sing** – Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm

**Next Sunday, September 14, during coffee** we will celebrate **Everybody's Birthday**

**Appreciation for volunteers with the Soup Kitchen ministry** headed by Jim Gunther

## INTRODUCTION

On this first Sunday in the Season of Creation, we join with churches across Canada in lifting up water as part of our Friends of Creation campaign. Here in southern Alberta, we continue to learn of the significance of the snowpack that feeds the headwaters of our rivers, the impacts of drought on fish and wildlife, livestock and crops, gardens and homes. Around Lake Chad, disrupted rainfall and the shrinking lake threaten both health and livelihoods.

As people joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness and called to follow Jesus as companions in the mission of God.

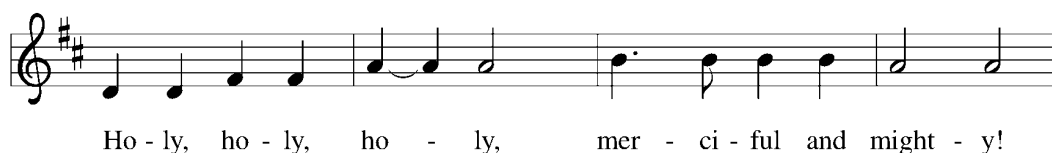
*Water is poured into the font*

Today we acknowledge that the ongoing protection and sharing of clean water are part of our baptismal vocation to love neighbour as self . . . and to respect, sustain and renew the life of the earth.

We take a moment to center our hearts and minds on the God who created the earth and all that dwell within it.

*Silence*

**"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" ELW 413 v 1**



In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life,  
the name of +Christ, the pulse of life,  
and the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. Amen.

**Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.**

Christ we come into your presence to worship in this sanctuary called Earth:  
**a planet filled with your presence, vibrating the land, shimmering in the rivers.**

God, reveal yourself to us in this place and show us your face in all creation.

**Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.**

**"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" v 3**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.**

**PSALM 104 :1-2a, 5-13**

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

**O LORD my God, you are very great.**

You are clothed with honor and majesty,  
wrapped in light as with a garment.

**You set the earth on its foundations,  
so that it shall never be shaken.**

You cover it with the deep as with a garment;  
**the waters stood above the mountains.**

At your rebuke they flee;  
**at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.**

They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys,  
to the place that you appointed for them.

**You set a boundary that they may not pass,  
so that they might not again cover the earth.**

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow between the hills,  
**giving drink to every wild animal;  
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.**

By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;  
**they sing among the branches.**

From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
**the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.**

**"Crashing Waters at Creation" ELW 455 v 1 & 3 (Tune ELW 494)**

**Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the Spirit's breath,  
first to witness day's beginning from the brightness of night's death**

**Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the one foretold,  
opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.**

## **GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

It is our delight to pray. Creating and Sustaining God,  
the waters of the earth refresh, revive and nourish your creation.  
We thank you for the beautiful waterfalls,  
the sparkling blue green oceans,  
the refreshing fresh water sources,  
and the rains that nourish our crops and cool our earth.  
Help us to be better caretakers of these gifts.  
Help us to keep our water sources germ, disease and pollution free  
to not only continue to nurture humanity,  
but also sustain our plant and animal life.  
Help us remember that all things are interconnected  
and help us to continue to be strong co-creators with you. **Amen.**

### **“Crashing Waters at Creation” v 4**

**Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.  
Wellspring, source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **READING: Genesis 1:1-2:4**

- One When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.
- Two God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.
- One And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome.
- Two And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

One And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear."

Two And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

One Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it."

Two And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

One And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth."

Two And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

One And 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.

Two And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

One 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."

Two And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

One Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

Two So God created humans in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

One God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food."

Two And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

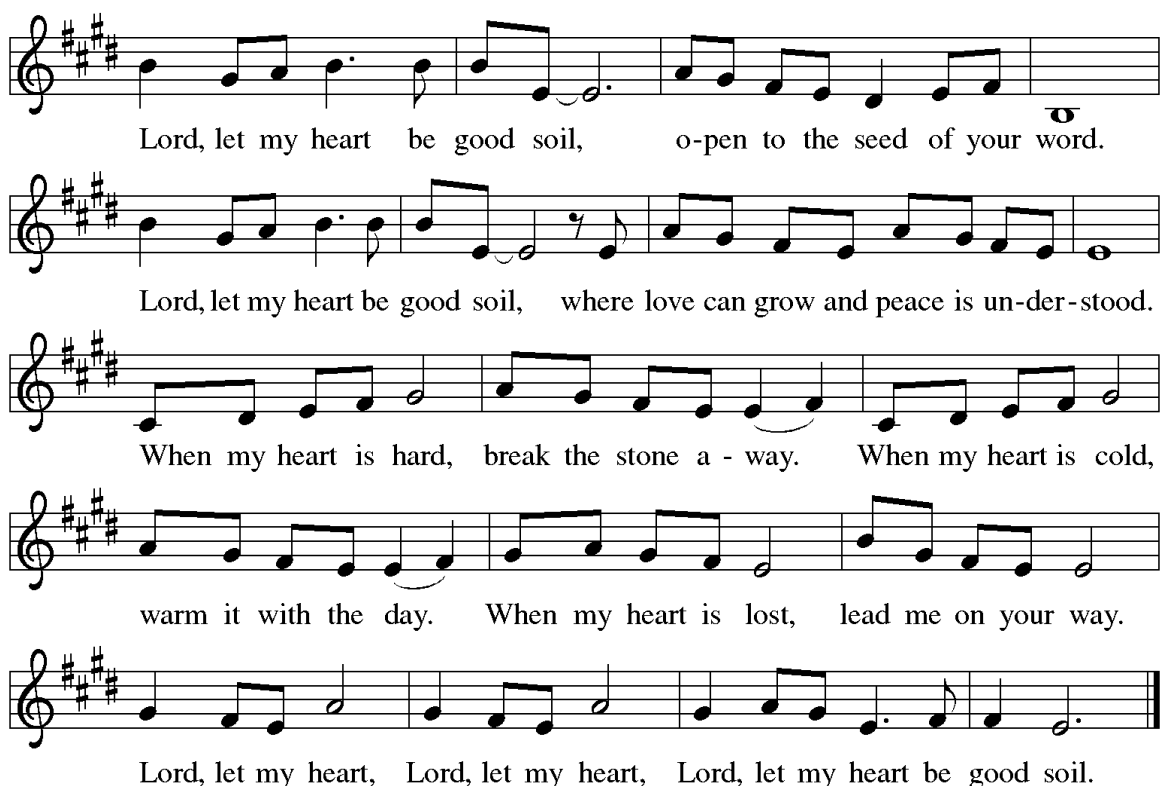
One Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.

Two So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL VERSE "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" ELW<sub>512</sub>



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.

## **GOSPEL: John 4:7-15**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **Prayer to conclude the sermon**

Let us pray. God of the waters,  
we lift up the communities in the Lake Chad Basin, where rain is uncertain and both drought and flood bring hardship. Be near to those who walk for hours to find clean water. Protect women and girls who carry this daily weight. Bless the hands restoring the land—with trees, tools, and care. May small actions lead to lasting change. Guide us in this challenge, to honour your creation and uplift our neighbours. Amen.



# HYMN OF THE DAY "Light Dawns on a Weary World" ELW 726



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (SOC 2020 Australia)**

<https://seasonofcreation.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/liturgy-river-sunday-1.pdf>

Let us affirm our faith together.

**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 our kin.**

**We believe that God became flesh and blood,  
became one in and with creation,  
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.**

**We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation,  
reconciling all things to God,  
renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.**

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

**We believe in the church and, as created beings,  
In the communion we share in kinship with all creation.  
We believe that with Christ we will rise  
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation. Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT & PRAYER**

Over the coming weeks, special gifts toward Friends of Creation can be designated through your offering envelopes and etransfers. Gifts can also be given directly on our special Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd fundraising page with CLWR.

Let us pray. God, our Loving Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep gratitude and our concern for all in need, including all of our companions who share this Earth. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Loving God, Creator of the universe, you know and love all you have made. In trust we turn to you.

Loving God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer of life itself, you call us into community with one another and with the whole Christian church. We pray for your people everywhere who seek to live out their call to be in communion with you and to take care of the world you've created. Give your church courage to proclaim Christ, wisdom to discern what is essential and love to serve with joy. Bless National Bishop Larry Kochendor and Cathy as they adjust to a new call in a new place. Gracious God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Loving God, we pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places like Lake Chad affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. Send rain where it is needed. Gracious God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Loving God, we pray for those in authority. Grant them responsibility and commitment that they may work for the common good, seek justice and protect the most vulnerable. Gracious God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Loving God, we pray for all who carry heavy burdens in their lives: the sick, the vulnerable, those who long for companionship, those who have lost hope, those who cannot speak what is in their hearts. Especially we lift up Myrtle, Alice, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Karen, Janet C, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Corrie, Alice, Kyra, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda, Shirley, Derek, Hugh and Ally, Jim N., Donna, Helga, Margaret and Clayton, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Heather and Alan and those we name silently now . . . [silence]. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. Gracious God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Loving God, we pray for teachers and educators as they begin another school year. Fill them with love for their students and with joy in their calling. We pray for students of all ages, that they may see the world and others through your eyes, and as they learn, be filled with wonder and awe and all that you've created. Give them joy in learning and in developing the gifts that you have given. Gracious God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Loving God, we pray for our congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We give thanks for and ask you to bless the Men's Group. Be near to Henrietta Borden and Thelma Brown. Hold Pastor Joel, Vanesa, and Hans in your care during this time of waiting. We pray that we will remember to be faithful to the gospel and to follow you means putting our hands at the service of those in need, our voices at the service of those silenced by society and our hearts at the service of those who no longer remember what love is. Gracious God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Loving God, we thank you for all your saints and now rest in your love. Give us faith like them and by your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Gracious God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Into your hands, loving God, we commend all our prayers, trusting in your grace that sustains us through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

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. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The blessing of Creator God,  
the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit  
bless you that you might be a blessing to others today and always. **Amen**

# SENDING HYMN "May the God of Hope Go with Us" ACS 984

*¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz!*  
 May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day,

*Al mun - do en cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad.*  
 to a world in need with news of joy and peace.

*Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da - nos tu luz,*  
 May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way,

*luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.*  
 bring-ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race.

*O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos*  
 Pray-ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our

*de tu a - mor. Lu - che - mos por la paz,*  
 joy with all; work - ing for a world that's new,

*fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.*  
 faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

## SENDING

Go in peace, serve Christ, care for the Earth.  
 Thanks be to God! We will!

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#### **LITURGY AND SERMON**

Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Friends of Creation Resources

<https://www.clwr.org/foc-resources>

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Oldman River, Lethbridge – photo by Darcy Calkins

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