



**Friends of
Creation**

Week 4: Climate and Peace

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

This is our last Sunday of reflecting on God's call to steward the earth by looking at how climate intersects with food, water, peace, and local economies around Lake Chad in central Africa, at the frontlines of climate change.

One part of our Friends of Creation Challenge is to raise funds for this CLWR project. With matching grants, every \$50 raised can restore 1 acre of land around Lake Chad.

Good Shepherd's goal is 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! Special gifts toward can be designated through your offering envelopes and e-transfers; please mark them "Friends of Creation." Gifts can also be given directly to our special fundraising page with CLWR.

Our wrap-up event is a community supper here at the church this **Saturday, October 4, at 5 pm**. Everyone is welcome!

INTRODUCTION

Today we hear a beloved conversation in which Jesus is preparing his disciples for the day when he will no longer be with them. He promises peace, not as the world gives, but a peace rooted in love and trust.

In the Lake Chad Basin, peace is deeply connected to land, water, and the climate. As the environment changes, peace becomes harder to find. Farmers and herders are increasingly in conflict, competing for land that is drying out or no longer usable. In some places, armed groups have taken advantage of these conditions, using fear and instability to gain control. The drying earth has strained the ties that hold neighbours together and frayed the bonds within families.

This week we are invited to consider how God calls us to be peacemakers in a world where environmental stress can lead to conflict and division.

Video: Bp Susan's 's message and prayer on **peace** from Lake Chad

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

The congregation is invited to stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (from SOC 2025)

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.

All too often, we fail to live as we are called to live.

Let us come before the Triune God
to confess our sins and pray for forgiveness and renewal.

**Creator of all, we praise you for the gift of life
and for the faith that unites us
in care for our common home.**

**We confess how estranged we have become—
from one another, from your Creation,
and from our truest selves.**

**We acknowledge that our greed
and destructive impulses
have fractured our relationships with you,
with others, and with the Earth.**

Fertile fields have become barren, forests lie desolate,
oceans and rivers are polluted.
Thriving communities have become places of suffering,
and the earth cries out.

Christ, who spoke “peace” to frightened hearts,
stir us to compassionate action.

**Inspire us to work for the end of conflict,
and for the full restoration of broken relationships —
with you, with the human family,
and with all Creation.**

**May we come together as one family,
to labor for your peace,
a shalom where all people may dwell in safety,
and rest in quiet places.**

Beloved people of God:
Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life,
you are shown God’s mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

"The Peace of the Lord" ELW 646



1 *La paz del Se - ñor, la paz del Se - ñor, la*
 1 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 2 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 3 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the



paz del Re - su - ci - ta - do: la paz del Se -
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the



ñor a ti ya mí, a to - dos al - can - za -
 Lord is for you and for me, and al - so for all of God's
 Lord is a - mong us right now, so o - pen your - selves to re -
 Lord kept with - in can - not live, so o - pen your - selves now to



rá; la paz del Se - ñor a ti ya
 chil - dren. The peace of the Lord is for you and for
 ceive it. The peace of the Lord is a - mong us right
 share it. The peace of the Lord kept with - in can - not



mí, a to - dos al - can - za - rá.
 me, and al - so for all of God's chil - dren.
 now, so o - pen your - selves to re - ceive it.
 live, so o - pen your - selves now to share it.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

It is our delight to pray. God our peacekeeper, we live in a world where peace is often elusive. Help us to work hard and strive for peace in all that we do. Help us to offer your peace to everyone we encounter and lead the way into a world that promotes harmony, where we all love each other the way you would have us love each other, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING: Isaiah 32:15-20

. . . [when] a spirit from on high is poured out on us,
and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field,
and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.
Then justice will dwell in the wilderness
and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.
The effect of righteousness will be peace,
and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.
My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,
in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.
The forest will disappear completely,
and the city will be utterly laid low.
Happy will you be who sow beside every stream,
who let the ox and the donkey range freely.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" ELW 512 (also in WOV with intro)

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 14:25-31

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "God, Who This World Created" – v 1, 2, 3, 5 duet w/ congregation joining

Duet



1. God, who this world cre - a - ted, send forth Your ho - ly breath,
2. God, who en - graved each val - ley and set forth gush - ing streams
3. God, sculp - tor of our bod - ies, who gives us what we need

5. God, who for us has plan - ted a gar - den that sus - tains,



re - new the lands You've sculp - ted, a - bused by our neg - lect.
that flow be - tween the mount - ains and nur - tures liv - ing things.
from hands di - vine out - stretch - ing, we are de - signed for peace.

pro - vid - ing food and shel - ter on this, Your rich do - main.

On v 2, 3, and 5 the congregation is invited to join here



O bril - li - ant Cre - a - tor, we call up - on Your name;
O bril - li - ant Cre - a - tor, our thirs - ty souls You quench;
O bril - li - ant Cre - a - tor, we find our peace in You;

O bril - li - ant Cre - a - tor, who feeds us from the earth;



Be with us in our mis - sion: cre - a - tion to re - claim.
Be with us in our mis - sion: the drough - ted land to drench.
Be with us in our mis - sion: all con - flicts to sub - due.

Be with us in our mis - sion: all fam - ine to re - verse.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Loving God, Creator of the universe, you know every creature and its needs. With great trust we turn our hearts to you.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to live in peace and to be peace-makers. May it bring hope to the oppressed and comfort to those living in fear. Give national Bishop Larry Kochendorfer and the staff all they need as they seek to live out their calling. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace for all. Turn our hearts toward all who yearn for calm and fairness, especially we lift up to you your children who have never experienced peace in their daily lives. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

We pray for people in any need especially Myrtle, Alice, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Karen, Janet C, Victor and Judy, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Corrie, Alice, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda, Shirley, Derek, Hugh and Ally, Jim N., Donna, Helga, Margaret and Clayton, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Heather, Alan and those we name silently now. Give them your courage to face each new day, assured of your abiding presence in their lives and that you love them. Allow them to rest in your peace. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

We pray for this congregation, that we would be encouraged and strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Bless our Sunday School teachers and students, and be near to Victor and Judy Cursons and Pat Davis. Hold Pastor Joel, Vanessa, and Hans in your loving care. Together, may we live in, and work for, peace. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

We give thanks for those who are now experiencing the fulness of grace and love. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors and to be instruments of your peace. Marked by the cross of Christ, bring us to eternal life. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our spoken and silent prayers before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PR ERIN

WE SHARE THE MEAL

We sing as we set our table.

"Let Us Go Now to the Banquet" ELW 523

Refrain / Estribillo



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to yu - na mi - sión.
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.



1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -
1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do a - le - gre la
mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm
ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -

Refrain / Estribillo



cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu a - mis - tad.
walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. **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, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise forever.

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" – WOV 616 a

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might:

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,
and make us one in this community of faith
and with your people throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,
in your church, without end. **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

*Together let us take and eat, the body of Christ given for you
Together let us take and drink, the blood of Christ shed for you*

SONG VIDEO "Touch the Earth Lightly"

COMMUNION SONGS

"Here is Bread" W&P 58



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us,
 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us,
 3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us,



he is with us. Break the bread, taste the wine,
 he is with us. Know his grace, find his peace,
 he is with us. We'll pro-claim till he comes



Christ is with us here. here.
 feast on Je - sus here.
 Je - sus cru - ci - fied.

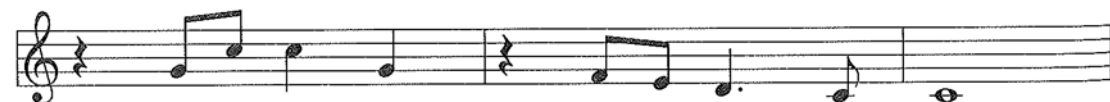
Refrain



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is



life for - ev - er. In this mo - ment,



by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" W&P 95



1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.



Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;
Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;
It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,

Last time to coda ⊕



where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;
where there is dark - ness, on - ly light;
in giv - ing of our - selves that we re



and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.



3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so



much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be



un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be

D.C. (stanza 4) al coda



loved as to love with all my soul.



ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, you feed us with bread from heaven and the gifts of mother earth. In this communion, you have drawn us into your embrace and you call us to friendship with one another. May we who have tasted that gift from you, offer ourselves in peace and humility to one another through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: Pour out your Spirit on all who share your word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 SONG "Let Us Enter In" ACS985



1 Let us en-ter in to the song of thanks - giv - ing and free - dom.
2 Let us en-ter in to the place where our God has pre - ced - ed.
3 Let us en-ter in to the heart of a world that is bro - ken.



Let us en-ter in to the long line of peo - ple in need.
Let us en-ter in to the face of the fear and the pain.
Let us en-ter in to the start of a hope we can share.



Let us en-ter in to the strong mind that God is still liv - ing.
Let us en-ter in to the grace of the love when it's need - ed.
Let us en-ter in to the part where we call one an - oth - er



Heal - ing, for - giv - ing— Let us en - ter in.
Death is de - feat - ed! Let us en - ter in.
sis - ter and broth - er. Let us en - ter in.

SENDING

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

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Oldman River, Lethbridge – photo by Darcy Calkins

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