First Sunday in the Season of Creation

September 3, 2023

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE LIVE AND WORSHIP ON THE UNCEDED TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE KWIKWETLEM FIRST NATION, WHICH LIES WITHIN THE SHARED TERRITORIES OF THE TSLEIL-WAUTUTH, KATZIE, MUSQUEAM, SQUAMISH AND STOL:LO NATIONS. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE CARED FOR THIS LAND SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL AS WE SEEK TO JOURNEY TOWARDS A MEANINGFUL RECONCILIATION.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Litany – Four Direction Prayer

P: Let us turn our hearts to the West
From there the Thunders bring us cleansing rain
C: Creator God, heal us and our relatives

P: Let us turn our hearts to the North
Winter comes to us from there and calls us to rest
C: Creator God, restore our strength

P: Let us turn our hearts to the East
The morning Sun begins each day there
C: Creator God awaken us and help us to walk with a renewed life

P: Let us turn our hearts to the South
Where the warm winds come from to give us comfort and joy
C: Creator God soothe our aching souls

P: Let us turn our hearts to the Sky
From there our Creator sees all around us
C: Creator God help us to trust you to lead us

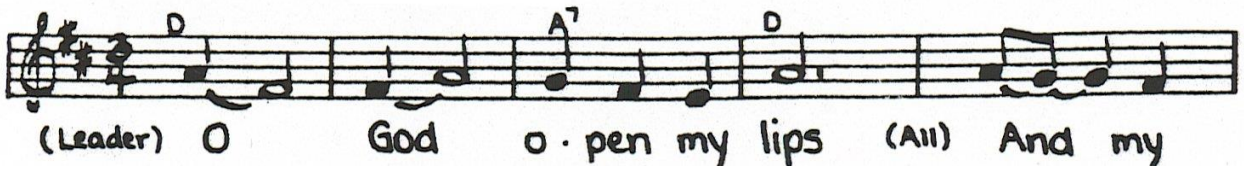
P: Let us turn our hearts to the Earth
From there quiet wisdom comes to teach us
C: Creator God hear us as we pray

Gathering Song ELW # 879 For the Beauty of the Earth

Greeting

P: God, maker of the day, be with us; God, raiser of Jesus, raise a new day among us. God, giver of the Spirit, light our lives!
C: Amen

Rise Up and Sing



Rise up good friends now is the hour
Sunlight will shower hope for the day
Rise from your sleep and keep your dreams with you
Let the light kiss you soft' on your way.

Rise with the world curled up awaiting
End to the hating, day full of grace
Rise up in song, the long night is ending
Now God is sending peace to this place.

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Children's Time

First Reading Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.
I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.
I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

P: The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 26:1-8

Refrain:

L: Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.
Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and mind.
For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.
C: Refrain

L: I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;
I hate the company of evildoers,
and will not sit with the wicked.

C: Refrain

L: I wash my hands in innocence,
and go around your altar, O LORD,
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.
O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.

C: Refrain

Second Reading Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation ELW # 171 - Hallelujah

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW # 806 O God, My Faithful God

Creation Care Creed

We believe in a bold God, Creator of splendour,
spinning stars into night skies,
warming the planet with life-giving sunshine,
filling the earth with all creatures great and small.

We believe in a big God, Creator of 150 billion galaxies,
who is big enough to receive our praise and loving enough to answer our prayers.

We believe in the risen Christ,
who meets us in the brokenness of life,
accompanies us on all our wanderings
and forever seeks to welcome us home with open arms.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
guide and companion,
who fills the church with windy hope and fiery compassion.

We believe in the church,
where we can taste some of the heavenly banquet
and live as a renewed people for the world. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession
After each petition, the pastor will say "Gracious Creator" and the congregation will respond "hear our prayer."

Confession

P: God of life, light and love,
God of land, sea and sky,
you called creation into existence
and wove it into a rich tapestry.

Your Spirit hovered over the face of the primordial waters.
Your life was breathed into humankind
which you made in your image.
Your Word was made flesh and dwelled among us in grace.

But we have not honoured these gifts or the gift of creation.
C: We have disrespected the web of life
We have uprooted your tree of life and sold it as logs.
We have forgotten that we sweat and cry saltwater
and have polluted your oceans and rivers.

P: And all around we see the consequences of our ecological sin:
C: heatwaves and wildfires,

droughts and floods,
more extreme cyclones, typhoons and hurricanes.
Yet we are blind.

P: The creation roars in pain.
C: Yet we are deaf.

P: You call us in Christ, to speak truth to power
and peace to this planet.
C: Yet we are silent.

P: God of hope and healing,
C: forgive us.
May your rivers of righteousness
wash away our apathy, greed and selfishness.
May the waves of your embrace
transform us back into guardians of your creation.
May the currents of your justice
flow through us to flood this world
with mercy, healing and life.

P: Brothers and sisters,
God forgives you.
Be at peace.
And then rejoice and be glad, for Christ is resurrection,
and the source of hope for all the human race
and the whole of creation.
C: Amen.

P: Christ calls us to live in unity with each other
and with the whole of Creation
C: We seek to live in the peace of Christ.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

All are invited to share a sign of peace with those around them, as we recognize the image of God in each other.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering Prayer

P: God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.
We bring our gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.
Form us now with your gifts
into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C:

Thanksgiving at the Table

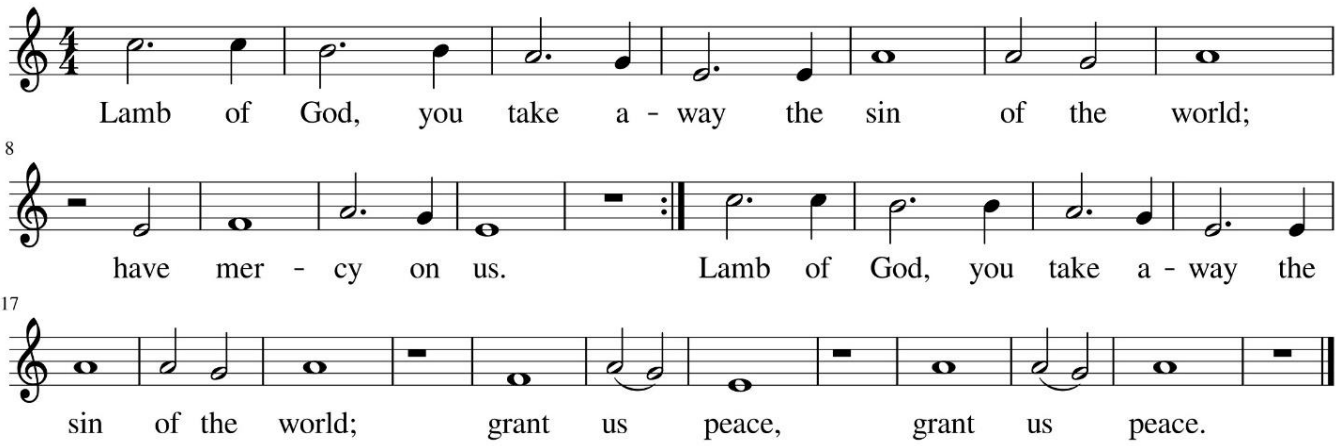
Lord's Prayer

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

C: 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.

Lamb of God



Communion is distributed

Directions for Communion: All are invited to this meal of grace, including children. At the Usher's direction, you are invited to advance to the communion rail through the centre aisle, commune in groups, and exit back to your pews through the window aisles, depositing your used wine/juice vessel in the repository tray at the head of each window aisle. If you would prefer to receive communion in your pew once all have come forward, please raise your hand and the servers will come to you. Wine is located in the two outer rings of the tray and the grape juice in the centre.

Hymns Sung during Communion

ELW # 808	**Lord Jesus You Shall Be My Song**
ELW # 580	**How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord**
ACS # 1067	**For the Wholeness of the Earth (sung twice)**
ACS # 967	**This Is Christ's Body (Chant)**

Prayer after Communion

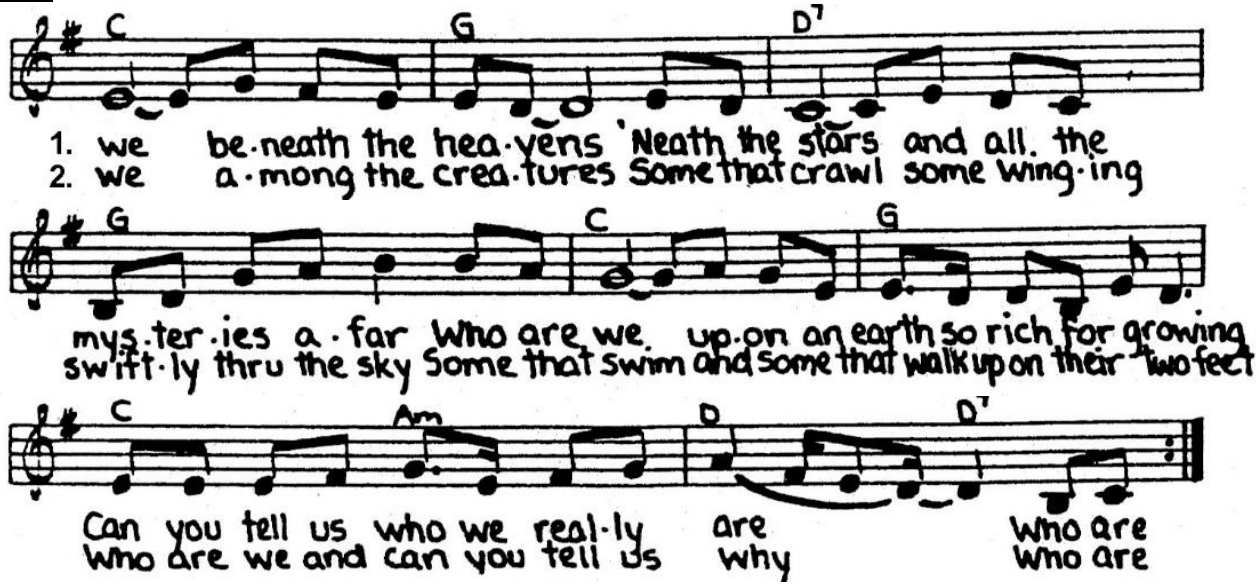
P: Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to work for just relationships
among all your creatures.
In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

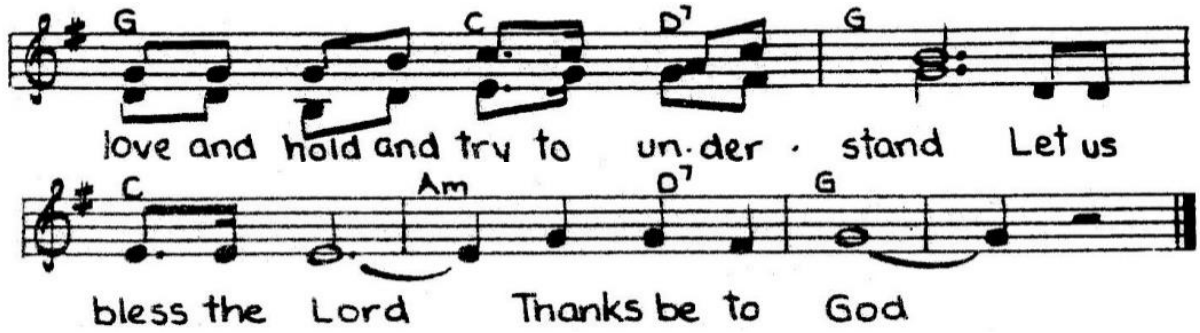
Who Are We

Refrain:

Verse 1 & 2:



Verse 3:



Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Sending Blessing

P: May we be blessed to open our hearts to receive "the living waters of God's justice and peace" within us:

C: Amen.

P: May we be blessed to share "the living waters of God's justice and peace" with our suffering brothers and sisters and all creatures around us:

C: Amen.

P: May we be blessed to walk together with all people of good will that "the living waters of God's justice and peace" may become a mighty river all over the Earth:

C: Amen.

P: And may God bless us on this journey, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Sending Song ACS # 1000 God's Work, Our Hands

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
September 3, 2023

(To open hyperlinks, try right-clicking your mouse while on the link and select *Open Hyperlink or Control-Click*)

Flowers are placed on the altar in gratitude for all who labour in service to others and for God's gift of vocation.

Service for Dorothy Durand: A *Celebration of Life* service for Dorothy Durand will be held next **Saturday, September, 9th** at 1:00 pm at **First Memorial Funeral Services Burkeview Chapel**, 1340 Dominion Avenue, Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 8G7. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in her name to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (through etransfer to goodshepherd@telus.net)

Tri-Cities Winter Shelter: St. Laurence will again be hosting the Tri-Cities Winter Shelter in their church facility during the month of October. There is a Volunteer Orientation meeting this coming Saturday **September 9 at 10 am** for all volunteers & shift sheets will be available. See the bulletin board for more information.

Rally Sunday: We are planning to hold our service outdoors at 10:30 am, weather permitting. An email will be sent out and a message left on our voicemail by 9 am Sunday morning as to whether we'll be worshiping indoors or outdoors. If outdoors, the service will not be live-streamed. We will locate the service such that we will be able to set up a few chairs on the east side landing for those with mobility issues. We'll enjoy a group activity and we'll gather inside after the service for pie and ice cream. You are welcome to sign up to donate a pie on the sheet provided on the usher's table, or sign up by contacting the office. Invite your friends and neighbours, too, and let's rally back to church!

Leaders From Four Churches to Visit Landfill Site: On Tuesday, September 5 at 4:00 p.m. (CDT), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) National Bishop Susan Johnson will join four other Church leaders and visit Camp Morgan, at the Brady Landfill outside Winnipeg, in solidarity with those calling for justice and an end to the violence against Indigenous women, children, and Two-Spirit people. To read the full news article, please click here.

SEASON OF CREATION EVENTS AND RESOURCES:

- **Set Sail on River of Justice and Peace:** You are invited to join BC Synod's Climate Action Justice Group and Ocean Legacy to unite in learning about the depth and breadth of the worldwide plastic pollution crisis, and how you can become part of a global community that, together, can build a mighty ecumenical river of lifesaving movement for water and ocean stewardship. For more information see the poster on page 15. The event is hosted virtually on Zoom. Scan the QR code in the poster, or click here to register
- **Building Momentum for Climate Justice Across the Synod:** The Synod's Climate Action Justice Group has created a very helpful document with information promoting the conduct of Green In-person Gatherings. We will be paying attention to this as a congregation, but you may also find useful tips in there for your own personal gatherings. You can download the document when you click here.
- **Laudato Si Circle**: The Laudato Si Circle hosted by St. Jospeh's Roman Catholic Parish (140 Port Moody Street) will resume meeting on **Wednesday, September 13** from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. This ecumenical group of Christians concerned for creation meets in the church portable on the second Wednesday of every month for fervent prayer, inspiring talks and lively discussions. All are welcome. See Pastor Eric for more information if you are interested.
- **March to End Fossil Fuels**: This is a global initiative and is supported by the Laudato Si movement. In Vancouver it will take place on Friday September 15, meeting at Vancouver City Hall at 1pm and marching till 4pm. For more info click https://fightfossilfuels.net/

SOCIAL JUSTICE:

- **Action to protect rights in the Philippines:** KAIROS (the Ecumenical Justice Network to which we belong as the ELCIC) has expressed concern about the Canadian government inadvertently enabling the Government of the Philippines to continued attacks on human rights and human rights defenders by providing financial, programmatic and technical support to the Government of the Philippines. To learn more, please click here. Also, to view a letter written by church leaders, including the ELCIC to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, please click here.

PACIFIC JUBILEE RETREAT:

- ***Returning to Silence: That Which Holds Everything***: From **Thursday, Sept 14** to **Thursday, Sept 21, 2023** at Rivendell Lodge, Bowen Island, BC. Learn more and register

A gentle reminder that in consideration of those who have severe sensitivities and Allergies, the church has been designated as a fragrance-free zone. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

This Week At Church (Note 1)

This Sunday ..... *Summer Hymn Sing* at 10:20 am
First Sunday in the Season of Creation Worship Service with Communion live-streamed at 10:30 am (View live-stream here)

Wednesday ..... Prayer Gathering at 1 pm over Zoom

Next Sunday ..... **Rally Sunday**: Second Sunday in *The Season of Creation* Worship Service followed by fellowship activities and concluding with pie and ice-cream. Live-streamed only if service is moved indoors. *All are welcome!*

Note: Most events are in-person events except those noted "on Zoom" or "Online". The links to these online events are accessible through our website. Our Sunday morning worship service is offered in-person, live-streamed and via on-line recording posted to our website shortly after the service is over.

Last Week at Church

Financial information from:		**August 27th**
Total Offerings	$	2,635.00
- General Offering	$	2,385.00
- Directed Gifts	$	250.00

Climate Justice Action Group & Ocean Legacy Present
(ELCIC BC Synod)

On the River of Justice & Peace

Online Workshop SEPT 25TH, 7PM

During the Season of Creation, 2.2 billion Christians are encouraged to pray and act on ecumenical issues that affect all of Creation. In 2023, we are facing a plastic pollution crisis that threatens streams, lakes, rivers and oceans across the globe. You are invited to join us on SEPTEMBER 25TH at 7PM to unite in learning about the depth and breadth of the worldwide plastic pollution crisis and how you can become part of a global community who, together, can build a mighty ecumenical river of lifesaving movement for water and ocean stewardship.

Go to this link to register,
or scan the QR code:
http://bit.ly/letwaterflow

Welcome to
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

We welcome you to worship today. It is our prayer that you sense the joy that is present in Jesus Christ. God loves and values each of you without conditions attached. We bring our joys and needs before God, trusting in God's presence.

1504 Sprice Avenue, Coquitlam, BC, V3J 2P6
Phone: 604-936-2939
goodshepherd@telus.net **www.gslcc.ca**
Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

Pastor Eric Krushel Cell: 604-220-5450
Office: 604-936-2939

General Office Hours				
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00

We always recommend phoning before stopping by as times subject to change.

Good Shepherd Website

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