



Each year, Christians around the world join in celebrating the Season of Creation. This is a time for renewing, repairing and restoring our commitments to God, to one another and to all of creation – relationships at the heart of Christian discipleship. It is also a time for deepening and expanding our work and witness for climate justice and environmental care.

We are mindful in this season that we share in the gifts and responsibilities of God's good creation. Our stewardship of the earth is not bound by national or ecclesiastical borders, but by our common baptism. By enriching our spirits together, we become emboldened as disciples of Christ and enlivened in our witness to the One, who came to redeem all of creation. During this season as a church we have opportunities for worship, formation, and action. Our liturgy has some changes in honor of the season including new Prayers of the People crafted and edited by members of St. David's. We hope these new words to the concerns of our hearts deepen your prayer during this time.

Prelude

Words of Welcome and Announcements

(Please stand)

Opening Hymn

#416 "For the beauty of the earth"

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
6. For each per - fect gift of thine, to the world so free - ly given,

1 for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
2 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
6. faith and hope and love di - vine, peace on earth and joy in heaven.

Refrain

Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Presider says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

2. Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you,
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

4. you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

O heavenly Creator, you have filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to recognize your gracious hand in all your works, that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of the One through whom all things were made, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

(Congregation may be seated.)

The Lessons

Old Testament **Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18**

The Reader says A Reading from Leviticus

25 The Lord said to Moses on Mount Sinai, **2** Speak to the Israelites and say to them: Once you enter the land that I am giving you, the land must celebrate a sabbath rest to the Lord. **3** You will plant your fields for six years, and prune your vineyards and gather their crops for six years. **4** But in the seventh year the land will have a special sabbath rest, a Sabbath to the Lord: You must not plant your fields or prune your vineyards. **5** You must not harvest the secondary growth of your produce or gather the grapes of your freely growing vines. It will be a year of special rest for the land. **6** Whatever the land produces during its sabbath will be your food—for you, for your male and female servants, and for your hired laborers and foreign guests who live with you, **7** as well as for your livestock and for the wild animals in your land. All of the land's produce can be eaten.

8 Count off seven weeks of years—that is, seven times seven—so that the seven weeks of years totals forty-nine years. **9** Then have the trumpet blown on the tenth day of the seventh month. Have the trumpet blown throughout your land on the Day of Reconciliation. **10** You will make the fiftieth year holy, proclaiming freedom throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It will be a Jubilee year for you: each of you must return to your family property and to your extended family. **11** The fiftieth year will be a Jubilee year for you. Do not plant, do not harvest the secondary growth, and do not gather from the freely growing vines **12** because it is a Jubilee: it will be holy to you. You can eat only the produce directly out of the field. **13** Each of you must return to your family property in this year of Jubilee.

14 When you sell something to or buy something from your fellow citizen, you must not cheat each other. **15** You will buy from your fellow citizen according to the number of years since the Jubilee; he will sell to you according to the number of years left for harvests. **16** You will raise the price if there are more years, or lower the price if there are less years because it is the number of harvests that are being sold to you. **17** You must not cheat each other but fear your God because I am the Lord your God. **18** You will observe my rules, and you will keep my regulations and do them so that you can live securely on the land.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 8 (*The Psalm is read responsively by half-verse*)

- 1 O God our Governor, *
 how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children, *
 your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *
 to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
 the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What are we that you should be mindful of us, *
 mere mortals that you should seek us out?
- 6 You have made us but little lower than the angels; *
 you adorn us with glory and honor;
- 7 You give us dominion over the works of your hands; *
 you put all things under our feet:
- 8 All sheep and oxen, *
 even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
 and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O God, our Governor, *
 how exalted is your Name in all the world!

The Epistle Romans 13:8-14

The Reader says A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**
(Please stand)

The Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

The Priest says The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

People: The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

A moment of meditative silence is observed after the sermon.

The Nicene Creed *(All standing, say together)*

**We believe in One God,
The Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Deacon or other Leader

Blessed God, whose love calls the whole creation into covenant with you, and who puts in our hands responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures: we pray for all to whom you have given life and being, saying, *“Merciful God, guide, strengthen, and assist us to keep your planet and people in peace.”*

For the earth’s well-being, that we acknowledge and address climate change and the natural disasters which it causes; for our love of future generations of God’s creatures that we commit ourselves to the protection of the earth’s foundational resources of water, air, light, and soil, we pray.

Merciful God, guide, strengthen, and assist us to keep your planet and people in peace.

For the waters of the earth; for their careful use and conservation, that we may have the will and the ability to keep them clean and pure, we pray:

Merciful God, guide, strengthen, and assist us to keep your planet and people in peace.

For the mineral and energy resources of the planet, that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray:

Merciful God, guide, strengthen, and assist us to keep your planet and people in peace.

For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small, that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray:

Merciful God, guide, strengthen, and assist us to keep your planet and people in peace.

For the human beings who do us harm, especially those who perpetrate violence against women and girls, victimize the marginalized, and perpetuate racial hatred and division; and for harmful creatures of the earth whose place in the ecology of your creation we do not understand, that we may see and welcome their purpose as beloved creatures of God, we pray:

Merciful God, guide, strengthen, and assist us to keep your planet and people in peace.

For all world leaders who shape public policies, especially those who address the threat of nuclear weapons and the dangers of climate change; and for our government's leaders whose decisions determine the future of our country's environmental health, especially Andrew Wheeler, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, that they may consider wisely the well-being of all who come after us, we pray:

Merciful God, guide, strengthen, and assist us to keep your planet and people in peace.

For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray:

Merciful God, guide, strengthen, and assist us to keep your planet and people in peace.

For all your creatures, especially those that are threatened or are facing extinction; for the human beings of your world who are ill especially Hank Sharp, Sara Goodson, and Barb Manke, for those in danger, pain, or special need, especially those suffering from COVID 19 and those who are their caregivers; for the frail and elderly and those who suffer from the disease of loneliness; for those who are in communal living, especially Claire Marsh, Margaret - Paul Yanik's Mom, Broadie, Herb's mother, Erna and Linda--Karen and Harry's Mothers, and Vivian - Neal Howard's Mom, and Lisa--Judy and Jere Annis' daughter and for those living in detention centers; for all who suffer any injustice or violence; and for all who are denied access to the earth's resources because of waste and misuse; that all may one day live in communities of justice and peace, we pray.

Merciful God, guide, strengthen, and assist us to keep your planet and people in peace.

For the gifts of science and technology and for those who practice these skills, that they may be wise, visionary, and compassionate in their work, we pray:

Merciful God, guide, strengthen, and assist us to keep your planet and people in peace.

For the human beings of the earth whose lives and deaths have contributed to a deeper understanding and appreciation of this planet, giving thanks especially for Greta Thunberg and her dedication to fighting climate change, we pray

Merciful God, guide, strengthen, and assist us to keep your planet and people in peace.

The Presider concludes the Prayers with this or another suitable collect.

Gracious God:

Grant that your people may have in them
the same mind that was in Christ Jesus,
and guide us into harmony of relationship
through loving-kindness and the wise use
of all that you have given;
for you are drawing all things into communion with you
and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The Deacon or Presider may introduce the Confession with these words

Let us confess our sin against God and God's creation.

Silence may be kept

Minister and People

Holy and merciful God,
we confess that we have failed to honor you
by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.
We have walked heavily on your earth,
overused and wasted its resources,
taken for granted its beauty and abundance,
and treated its inhabitants unjustly,
holding future generations hostage to our greed.
Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.
Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth
as you desire and intend,

with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Lord's Prayer *(Please stand)*

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
All say together: **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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.**

The Blessing

The People respond: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

SOTC #47 *tune: Land of Rest*



1. The love of God in-vites re-spect for
2. We'll ne - ver meet a - no - ther soul who
3. Of all the hurts we give and get there's
4. God's ten - der mer - cies tend us well, and



All that love sur-veys, for eve ry thing that
Is not counted dear there's not a - no - ther
None so great it stands be—yond God's ac - tive,
We il - lu — mi - nate the na — ture of the



Lives and is lives un - der love's wide gaze.
Way to count a - mong God's chil— dren here.
Sup - ple love and re - con—ci— ling hand.
Love of God as we re - ci - pro - cate.

The Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People:

Thanks be to God.

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