

# Creationtide 1

September 4, 2022 + 4pm

Sitchanalth / Willows Beach

## The Season of Creation 2022



The **burning bush** is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022. Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires are a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Human greed, desertification and land misuse lead to the disintegration of ecosystems, the destruction of habitats, and the loss of livelihoods and species at an alarming rate. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice that we have caused. On the contrary, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This was a flame of the Spirit that revealed God's life sustaining presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered, and promised to be with us as we followed

faithfully to deliverance from injustice. During the Season of Creation, this symbol calls us to listen to the voice of creation, and faithfully respond through worship, repentance and action. Moses was told to remove his sandals, for he was standing on holy ground in God's presence. May this symbol move us to remove the "sandals" of our unsustainable lifestyles that disconnect us from creation and our Creator, contemplate our connection to the holy ground where we live, and listen for the voice of creation.

From the 2022 Season of Creation Resource Guide



**Listen to the  
Voice of creation**  
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

## **Welcome & Land Acknowledgment**

As we gather to worship the Triune God  
our common Creator,  
we wish to acknowledge this sacred place  
that the indigenous people called Sitchanalh,  
which referred to the drift logs  
and trees lodged in the sand.

The site was used for thousands of years, and longhouses once lined the entire shore. The people enjoyed a wide variety of sea life, deer, birds and shoreline foods.

This place is part of the ancestral, traditional and unceded Aboriginal territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt nations ɬəkwəŋən-speaking peoples.

It is on their territories that we worship, pray and play  
and with whom we prayerfully seek deep reconciliation, justice and healing.

*...Let us enter the silence - listening to the sounds of creation  
- where the God of love waits for us.*

*Silence / Bell x 3*

## **Poem**

Earth's crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush afire with God,  
But only [one] who sees takes off [their] shoes;  
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

*Brief silence.*

**The Hebrew Scripture** Exodus 3 (*selected verses*). Moses..led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to Moses out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And God said, 'Here I am.' Then God said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' God said further, 'I am the God of your [parents], the God of Abraham [and Sarah and Hagar], the God of Isaac [and Rebekah], and the God of Jacob [and Rachel and Leah].' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey...' *Brief silence.*

*Spoken and silent reflections*

## **Walking Prayers**

We wander the beach individually or in small groups and pray with and for creation - prayers of intercession, confession and gratitude.

On this labour day weekend we also encourage prayers for those who labour, for the dignity of good and fruitful work and for the labour movement.

We'll return in about 5 minutes - signaled by the bell. As you are returning, end your time by saying the Lord's Prayer in a language or paraphrase or translation of your choice.

*We re-gather.*

## **The Peace**

If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation.

**We see God around us. We see God within us.**

**We give thanks to our Creator.**

Let us show the caring nature you have instilled within us by greeting each other as a sign of God's justice of peace, love, forgiveness and grace.

The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.

**And also with you.**

You are invited to care and share peace with your neighbor, and speak a word of peace to the land in which you gather, and the creatures who share this common home. (adapted from

Celebrating Creation: Honoring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA)

*We exchange a sign of God's peace.*

## **Thanksgiving for the Earth** (Prayer over the Gifts)

Remember the fruits of the earth, for sowing and for harvest. Remember the dew of the air. Remember the downcoming of the rains and the waters and the rivers. Remember the plants and the blooms of every year. Remember the safety of humans and of animals and of me, your [blessed and broken] servant. For the rain, the wind of the sky, seed, plants, the fruit of the trees and also the vineyards, and for every tree in the entire world:

**We are grateful!**

For the Holy Trinity who brings us to perfection in safety and peace, forgives us our sins, brings us up according to their measure that we may grow and prosper through your grace, who makes the face of the earth to rejoice, waters her furrows, lets her grain be abundantly multiplied and makes ready her seed-time and harvest:

**We give You thanks.**

(adapted from the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Pre-Anaphora, and Anaphora of Basil)

## **Holy Communion**

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 God thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, whose Spirit comes unseen as the wind, your hands have made earth, air, fire, wind, ocean and sky. Your face is turned towards this world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from decay, sin and death. Your arms reach out to call us home, to join with all of creation in singing your praise. Therefore, we say together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. +Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest.**

O God, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from You. And we thank you for the abundance of your nourishing love. For on the night before his death, Jesus blessed you, for the food, took bread, broke it, gave it and said: This is my body, given for you. Jesus then blessed you for the wine, took the cup, gave it and said: This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story. **This is our song. Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on this bread and wine, that by these gifts we may feed on Christ. Through blessed and broken bread may we know Your presence here and everywhere with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food find welcome at your feast where all creation worships you, and we shall sing for ever. **Amen.**

*A period of silence is kept.*

Take, bless, break, share. These are the gifts of God for the people of God, given for the life of the world. **Thanks be to God!**

The bread is gluten-free. It may contain dairy and/or almond flour. (If you'd like a dairy or nut free option, please let the presider know - we have Gluten-free sealed hosts as well). Grape juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the common cup. We discourage 'intinction' (dipping) the bread in the cup due to health concerns.

**Post-Communion Prayer** *extemporaneous.*

## **Blessing**

May God who established the dance of creation, Who marvelled at the lilies of the field, Who transforms chaos to order, lead us to transform our lives and the life of the faith community to listen to the voice of all creatures as they reflect God's glory in creation... and the blessing of the Triune Creator God... (adapted from the CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)

## **Sending**

Go in the wild, animating power of the Spirit to love God, live with respect in Creation. **Thanks be God. Alleluia!**

*Bell x 3*



## **Upcoming Sundays - at 932 Balmoral (First Met)**

**Sept. 11** – Blessing of bikes and backpacks - 2:30 for bike blessing/decorating/parade and 4pm for backpacks / worship)

**Sept. 18** - Community celebration and potluck  
Weekly on Sundays at 4pm after that.

**admin@emmauscommunity.ca www.abbeychurch.ca**

778 557 4166 (pastoral cell monitored regularly)

We would love to connect! Call, text or email to set up a coffee or walk.