

## Worship Plan for Sunday, September 25, 2022

Season of Creation – Cosmos Sunday  
ELW Holy Communion Setting Eight  
Rev. Carla Thompson Powell, pastor

Supply Pastor: Rev. Michael Stadie  
Musician: Lois Cornils  
Assisting Minister: Pam Marino

### Introduction to the day

Welcome! We worship this Sunday with the entire universe, conscious that the universe is a vast sacred space of which we humans on Earth are a such a small but privileged part. We join the Psalmists and call on the sky above and the deep below to shout with songs of praise. We celebrate the wondrous spiritual force called Wisdom which permeates, activates, and unifies the web of worlds that is our universe.



## PRELUDE

### GATHERING & CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Risen Christ,

**C: Your presence fills the universe.**

P: Cosmic Christ,

**C: Your presence pulses through all galactic space across light years of time.**

P: Living Christ,

**C: In this moment we call ‘now’, in this place we call ‘here’,**

P: Make your presence felt among us.

**C: Yes, make your presence known!**

P: We invite all creation to worship with us.

**C: We invite glittering galaxies high in the sky to radiate the splendor of God’s presence.**

P: We call distant domains of space to celebrate with us.

**C: We invite nebula, nova, and red giant stars to thank God for their formation in the universe.**

P: We summon that domain of stardust called Earth,

**C: To pulse with the rhythm of God’s presence and celebrate God’s glory in this planet garden.**

P: We invite millions of living species to dance with life,

**C: The turtle, the toad and the elephant, the earthworm, the ant and the dragonfly.**

P: We invite every creature in the web of creation

**C: To consciously connect with others in this cosmic community called the universe.**

P: Dance, creation, dance!

**C: Dance with life and cosmic energy!**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P: As we consider our place in the universe, we remember and confess that we have often been selfish, polluting our atmosphere and ignoring the needs of others – human and non-human alike - with whom we are closely connected in that part of the web of creation called planet Earth.

**C: We are sorry. We have polluted Earth's atmosphere We have opened a hole in the ozone layer. We have turned our greed into global climate change. We have exploited the poor and the vulnerable. We have ignored our crucial connection with creation. We have loved progress more than the planet. We are sorry. We are sorry.**

P: Christ hears your confession and forgives your sins against creation. I speak for Christ: I invite you to celebrate Earth as your home a precious part in the web of creation.

**C: Shalom! Shalom! Earth is our home!**

**GATHERING SONG *Earth and All Stars!* (ELW 731)**

### **GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 184) & CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 184)**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray, **C: God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mysteries of the universe, we celebrate the wondrous design of creation and the Wisdom that guides its course. Help us to discern how we are connected with living members of the cosmic community. Teach us to sense the presence of the cosmic Christ, whose presence fills and reconciles all forces in creation. Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Proverbs 8:22-31 'The Wisdom Behind the World'

22The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.

23Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

24When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.

25Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—

26when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.

27When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

28when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,

29when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

30then I was beside him, like a master worker;

and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,

31rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

A: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 146 (read responsively)**

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

3 Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

**4 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.**

5 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**6 who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

7 who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.

**8 The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

9 The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**10 The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING** Colossians 1:15-20 ‘Christ, the Cosmic Power’

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

A: Word of God, word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)**

**GOSPEL** John 6:41-51 ‘Living Bread from Heaven’

P: The holy gospel according to John. C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>41</sup>Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup>They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

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

**SERMON** - Rev. Michael Stadie

**HYMN OF THE DAY – The Cosmic Christ (WORDS: © Norman Habel 2004)**

*Tune is ELW 779, Amazing Grace*

1. Amazing is the Christ who died  
To void all sin and curse,  
Just as amazing is his life  
That fills the universe.
2. The risen Christ is more than one  
Who waits on some far shore;  
In, with and under ev'ry thing  
Christ is the living core.
3. The hidden Christ sustains for us  
The blueprint of the skies,  
The wisdom in each fragile form,  
The soul that lights the eyes.
4. The cosmic Christ moves deep below  
To heal the wounds within,  
When all creation groans in pain  
Because of human sin.
5. The universe hails the Christ, the One  
Who reconciles all things,  
'Til all creation rises new  
With healing in her wings.
6. As Christ unites the universe  
Restores this Earth once more,  
A cosmic song reverberates,  
A rich symphonic score.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in place of Apostles Creed)**

P: Let us affirm our faith together.

**C: 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 a piece of Earth, 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 Spirit renews life in creation groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.**

**We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation. O God, rich in mercy, fill your church with righteousness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Empower the baptized by your Spirit to be rich in good works and ready to share. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Protect the earth and its creatures. Provide water, food, shelter, and favorable habitats, especially for endangered species. Preserve threatened ice caps, glaciers, parks, and beaches. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Increase justice in nations, local governments, and courtrooms. Guide lawyers and those who hold public office to act with compassion and discernment. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Give food to the hungry. Set the captives free. Lift up those who are bowed down. Watch over the stranger. Tend to those who are ill. Stir us to act in the best interest of our neighbors. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Enliven our praise. Inspire musicians, artists, poets, and all who create beauty in this place, including our worship planning team. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Enfold the saints who have died in the arms of your loving care. Grant that the holy angels accompany us and bring us to eternal life with them in the light of your presence. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: *For whom else do we pray...*

A: Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **C: Amen.**

## OFFERING

*To give an online donation, please visit <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/uif>  
On your first visit, you will have to create an online giving account.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray

**C: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blessed. Blessed be God who is our bread. May all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

## COMMUNION DIALOGUE

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. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY – ELW p. 190**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,  
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.  
You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,  
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.  
You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave,  
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.  
By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:  
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,  
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **C: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 163)**

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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

*ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOD'S TABLE OF GRACE.*

(Please discard your plastic communion cup into the basket or empty tray.)

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Let us pray, **C: God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

P: May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and the pulsing of Christ within you. Go in peace!  
Serving Christ and loving Earth!

**C: We go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth.**

**SENDING SONG** *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* (ELW 771)

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Love your neighbor. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## **PEACE**

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

## **POSTLUDE**