



season of  
**creation**

*“The mountains and the hills  
before you will burst  
into song”  
Isaiah 55:12*

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN  
CREATION SERIES:  
MOUNTAIN**

**July 25, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.**

**The Rev. Kurt Christenson, pastor**

**Bill Engel, organ**

**Paul Engel, Cantor**

**T.J. Tallie, Lector**

**Eric Sloniker, Assisting Minister**

**Elizabeth Connolly, Paul Engel, Jan  
Neuhaus, & Billie Thompson, singers**

**Omari Abdul-Alim, violin**

**Brian Jensen, sound, video, & computer**

**PRELUDE**

*Beautiful Saviour*

Linda Margetts & Diane Bish

## WELCOME AND INVOCATION

In the name of our God, who creates mountains, the name of Christ, crucified on a mountain, and the name of the Spirit, deep in the mountains. Amen.

**Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.**

The Lord of life be with you.

**And also with you.**

Christ, we gather in your name to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,  
**a planet filled with your presence, quivering in the forests, vibrating in the land,  
pulsating in the wilderness, shimmering in the rivers.**

God, reveal yourself to us in this place and show us your face in all creation.

**Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.**

As we begin worship we remember the mountains we have climbed and where we have watched in wonder.

**O God, we thank you for the splendors of the mountains and the gift of life in the wild.**

## +SOLA GRATIA+

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

We remember and confess how we have poisoned and polluted the rivers in our mountains.

**Christ, crucified on a mountain, hear our cry.**

We have polluted our mountain rivers with poisonous waste, turned majestic mountains into commodities, and killed many creatures in the wild with chemicals.

**Christ, the source of all life, we are sorry. We are sorry.**

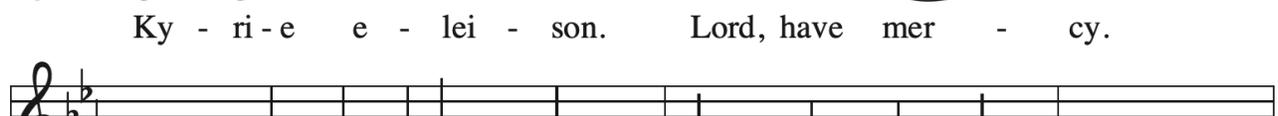
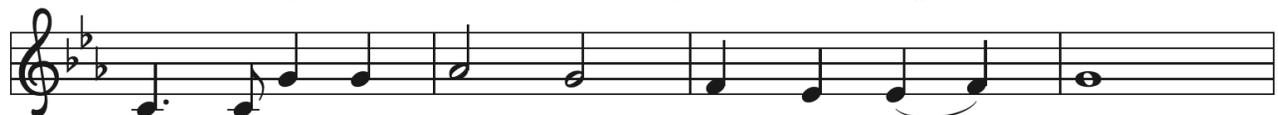
Christ hears your confession from the cross and forgives your sins against the mountains.

**Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home and to love mountains as signs of your presence.**

I speak for Christ: I invite you to come home to Earth by rejoicing in our mountains.

**Shalom! Shalom! We are coming home!**

**KYRIE** *\*cantor will sing each line once, then congregation will repeat it*



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## HYMN OF PRAISE *\*all sing*



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## INTRODUCTION TO LAMENT AND LOSS RITUAL

*There are two baskets at the altar to receive your Lament Cards. Those placed into the basket on the lectern side will be read aloud during worship. Those placed into the basket on the organ side will be prayed over and lifted up privately by the pastor. You may bring the cards forward anytime during worship, as The Spirit invites.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

**God, our Creator, as we climb the mountains, we celebrate the wonders of the wild that surround us. Help us to see in the surrounding landscape the places where the planet has been polluted and to empathise with the groaning of creation beneath us. Teach us to recognise that the hills are alive with your Spirit and to rejoice with all our kin, especially the creatures of the wild. In the name of Christ who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.**

## +SOLA SCRIPTURA+

### READING FROM OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 48:1-11 *(read responsively)*

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised  
in the city of our God.

**His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation,  
is the joy of all the earth,**

Mount Zion, in the far north,  
the city of the great King.

**Within its citadels God  
has shown himself a sure defense.**

Then the kings assembled,  
they came on together.

**As soon as they saw it, they were astounded;  
they were in panic, they took to flight;**

trembling took hold of them there,  
pains as of a woman in labor,

**as when an east wind shatters  
the ships of Tarshish.**

As we have heard, so have we seen  
in the city of the Lord of hosts,

**in the city of our God,  
which God establishes forever.**



## GOSPEL: Mark 16:14-18

### Glory to you, O Lord.

Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Pastor Kurt

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### God of the Fertile Fields

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'God of the Fertile Fields'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The music is in a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the treble clef staff. The first system covers the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system covers the last four lines. The lyrics are as follows:

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of  
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in  
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that  
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your  
trust from you all that you give; help us in  
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our  
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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boun - teous hand      come gifts      your      love      has planned,  
 love      to share,      teach us      like      you      to care  
 toil      be used,      no gift      of      yours      a - bused,  
 lives      a - new      in      faith - ful      love      to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land      be clothed and fed.  
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where,      that all may live.  
 no hum - ble task re - fused      your love be - stows.  
 Guide all we say and do.      Your will be done.

## +SOLA FIDE+

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*\*sung at beginning and end of prayers:*

**O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call answer me  
 O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me**

*\*after each petition:* Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things. **This we believe.**

Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin. **This we believe.**

God became flesh and blood, a part 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. **This we believe.**

The risen Jesus is the Christ at the center of creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos. **This we believe.**

The Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation. **This we believe. We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.**

## OFFERING

[Give Here](#)

### OFFERING PRAYER

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and as signs of our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth. **With all creation we praise our Creator.**

### WE SHARE OUR LAMENTATIONS

Ó - ye - nos, Se - ñor,      ó - ye - nos, Se - ñor.  
Lis - ten to your      peo - ple.      Ó - ye - nos, Se - ñor.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ó - ye - nos, Se - ñor,      ó - ye - nos, Se - ñor.' The second staff contains the lyrics 'Lis - ten to your      peo - ple.      Ó - ye - nos, Se - ñor.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final whole note on 'Se - ñor.' in both staves.

We offer up our Laments, Griefs, and Loss to the Living God

Text: Bob Hurd, b. 1950, alt.

Music: ÓYENOS, Bob Hurd

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### EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Creator be with you and all creation. **And also with you.**

Open your hearts. **We open them to our Creator.**

Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and Earth. **It is right to join creation in thanking God.**

### PROPER PREFACE

It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator. Your word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars, and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth, and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit. Your Spirit is the life impulse in all things, renewing the barren and healing the wounded, groaning in anticipation of a new creation, stirring a new life born of water and the Spirit. You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, die, and rise from death—to redeem humankind, to renew creation, and to affirm all born of Earth and the Spirit. Your presence is the living impulse in all things, the Christ deep among us, filling Earth—land, sea, and air—filling every element and place, filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day. Therefore with angels and archangels, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea, and the whole company of creation, we proclaim your presence among us.

## SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy, God of all life, Earth and sea and sky are full of your presence and glorify your name. Amen.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*\*We continue to practice a conservative and cautious approach to communion. The pastor will handle each host with tongs and after intinction place it onto a piece of parchment. The Worship Assistant will then place it on the table for you. Please take it and receive the elements of grace; broken and shed for you. There are small black waste receptacles on either side of the chancel for you to deposit the paper.*

## AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN

### Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!  
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
than all the an - gels in the sky.  
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

## POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us give thanks for this meal.

**We thank you, Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you, and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### Canticle of the Sun

Refrain



The heav - ens are tell - ing the glo - ry of God,

and all cre - a - tion is shout-ing for joy. Come,

dance in the for - est, come, play in the field, and

sing, sing to the glo - ry of the Lord.

Verses

1. Praise for the sun, the bring - er of day, He car - ries the
2. Praise for the wind that blows through the trees, The seas' might - y
3. Praise for the rain that wa - ters our fields, And bless - es our
4. Praise for the fire who gives us his light, The warmth of the
5. Praise for the earth who makes life to grow, The crea - tures you
6. Praise for our death that makes our life real, The knowl - edge of

light of the Lord in his rays; The moon and the stars who storms, the gen - tl - est breeze; They blow where they will, they crops so all the earth yields; From death un - to life her sun to bright - en our night; He danc - es with joy, his made to let your life show; The flow - ers and trees that loss that helps us to feel; The gift of your - self, your

light up the way Un - to your throne. blow where they please To please the Lord. mys - t'ry re - vealed Springs forth in joy. spir - it so bright, He sings of you. help us to know The heart of love. pres - ence re - vealed To lead us home.

D.C.

## **BLESSING & BENEDICTION**

Now may the penetrating power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind, and your body to heal your wounds and, through you, to bring healing to Earth, in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!

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

## **POSTLUDE**

*Italian Hymn*

*This Is My Father's World*

setting by Warren Swenson

Jeff Whitmill

**confession & forgiveness, prayer of the day, offering prayer, and dismissal**

*from Mountain Sunday Liturgy 2*

*from Let All Creation Praise World Series (B-2021)*

[www.letallcreationpraise.org](http://www.letallcreationpraise.org)

**kyrie, hymn of praise, preface, eucharist, sanctus, agnus dei, nunc dimittis**

*from All Creation Sings setting 12*

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