

**19th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Season of Creation: A Home for All?**  
**Sunday, October 3, 2021**

*(in building: please no singing,  
\*indicates the assembly stands)*

**Gathering**

Prelude *"Meditation"* R. Powell

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

\*Prayer for the Earth in the Four Directions *(see page 3)*

Hymn 879 *"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

\*Greeting

\*Glory to God p. 148

\*Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Anthem *"Heaven Is Singing for Joy"* P. Sosa

**Word**

First Reading Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Psalm 26 *(sung responsively by verse to Tone 5)*

Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

\*Gospel Acclamation *"Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?"* p. 151

\*Gospel Reading Mark 10:2-16

Sermon

Hymn of the Day 739 *"Touch the Earth Lightly"*

\*Profession of Faith *(see page 4)*

Music for Reflection *"Pastorale"* R. Powell

\*Prayers of Intercession **A: We give our thanks.**

\*Peace *(see page 4)*

## Thanksgiving

Hymn of Thanksgiving 975 (see page 5)

*“O God, Whose Word well-planted”*

\*Thanksgiving for the Word

\*Lord’s Prayer

(see page 6)

## Sending

General Announcements

Blessing

Hymn 679

*“For the Fruit of all Creation”*

Dismissal

**A: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*“Festival Praise”*

*R. Powell*

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**Welcome** to worship this morning, whether you are joining us in person or via the Golden Hour. In these pandemic times, worship will feel a lot different from normal, but it is still worship, and God is with us no matter what.

**Today we celebrate the final Sunday in the Season of Creation.** This year, the theme is A home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common role as caretakers of God’s creation. We see that our wellbeing is interwoven with its wellbeing. We rejoice in this opportunity to care for our common home, and our sisters and brothers of every species who share it.

## Prayer for the Earth in Four Directions

L: Creator, the strength of all creatures, we honour you. Listen to the thoughts of your people.

We honour your Spirit who renews the world and calls us to care for your creation to the East, to the South, to the West and to the North. We live by the ways you have entrusted to us within the circle of life. Come Great Spirit as we gather in your name.

(We turn our bodies to the Four Directions as we pray the following prayers. Begin by turning toward the East and continue to turn, with each prayer, in a clockwise direction)

We face East:

The place of dawning, there is beauty in the morning, there the seeker finds new visions as each sacred day is born. All who honour life around them, all who honour life within, shall shine with light and glory when the morning comes again. And we pray,

**A: Come Holy Spirit, Come**

L: We turn to the South:

In the South, the place of growing, there is wisdom in the earth, Both the painful song of dying and joyful song of birth. As the Earth gives up her lifeblood so that her children's hearts may beat, so we give back to her our reverence for the holy ground beneath our feet. And we pray,

**A: Come Holy Spirit, Come**

L: We turn to the West:

The place of seeing, there is born a vision of the servant of the servants, who proclaimed the Gospel to us. Guide us at the end of each day and fill us with your peace. And we pray,

**A: Come Holy Spirit, Come**

L: We turn to the North:

We look to God our Creator who cleanses our earth with snow, wind, and rain. To Jesus who fills us with the wideness of mercy and grace and lovingly embraces all the people. And the Holy Spirit who comes to inspire us. And we pray,

**A: Come Holy Spirit, Come**

*(Source: adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honoring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA)*

## Profession of Faith

L: We belong to the Creator in whose image we are all made.

**A: In God we are breathing, in God we are living, in God we share the life of all creation.**

L: We belong to Jesus Christ, the true icon of God and of humanity.

**A: In him God is breathing, in him God is living, through him we are reconciled.**

L: We belong to the Holy Spirit, who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

**A: In the Spirit love is breathing, in the Spirit truth is living, the breath of God always moves us.**

L: We belong to the Holy Trinity, who is one in all and Three-in-One.

**A: In God we are all made, in Christ we are all saved, in the Spirit we are all united.**

L: Together, we belong to the Earth, our common home.

**A: The Earth that is the Lord's, and all that is in it.**

*(Source: Per Harling)*

## Peace

L: If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation. One Home, One Body.

**A: We see God around us. We see God within us. We give thanks to our Creator.**

L: 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.

**A: And also with you.**

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

*(Source: adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honoring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA)*

# O God, Whose Word Well-Planted



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,  
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,  
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,  
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.  
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil  
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,  
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.  
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.  
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

Text and music © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

## Lord's Prayer

L: We pray our common prayer that Christ taught us.

**A: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

**Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**

**From trials too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*(Source: Adapted from The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa. This version of the Lord's prayer was influenced by Maori theologians)*

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### Leading Worship Today

**Minister:** Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

**Assisting Minister:** John McLellan

**Diaconal Minister of Music :** Deacon Scott Knarr

**Choral Scholars:** Zoe Harris, Laura Moolenbeek, Dylan Siebert, Jacob Steinmann

**Vocal Ensemble:** Pauline Finch, Lana Moses, Bev Roeder

**Radio Operator:** Gary Pootz

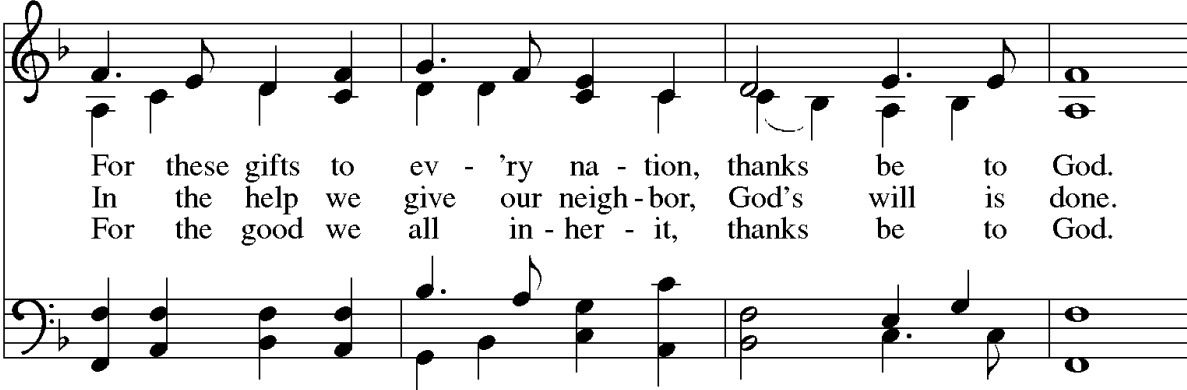
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**Outside Hymn-Sing!** Since we are not able to sing together in the building, those of you who are willing, can join with the Pastor after worship in the parking lot and sing together our Sending Hymn (with 2m distance). The words are printed here:

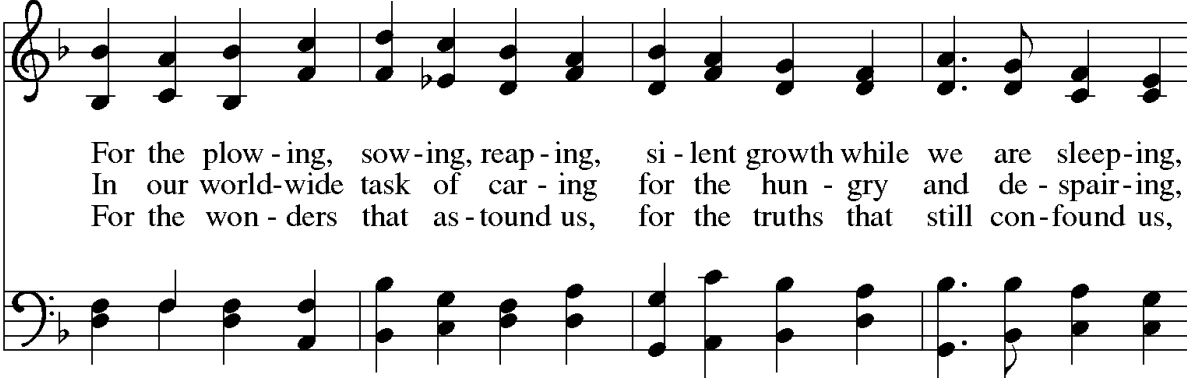
### For the Fruit of All Creation



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000  
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958  
 Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

## Worship Notes

In our prayers Grace, Maureen, Ruth-Marie, Frank, Judy and Bernice.

The **Golden Hour broadcast** is sponsored in loving memory of our parents, Patricia and William Krajaefski, by David Krajaefski and Cheryl Gibbs.

The **Guides** for today are in celebration of the 25th wedding anniversary on October 5th of Julia & Andrew Crnko.

### Important Information for today's worship:

- **Masks:** According to the Waterloo Region Bylaw, wearing a mask indoors is mandatory.
- **Children** are welcome to attend, but must stay with you/ your family in your seat at all times. Information about a potential Sunday school will be forthcoming.
- **Personal belongings:** All items must remain with you at all times
- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates upon leaving.



- **The Peace** will be shared without physical contact
- **Guides to Worship:** Please place these in the recycling bins in the Narthex upon leaving, or take them home.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, all will remain in place until the end of the postlude. Then, following the ushers' guidance, those in the back pews will exit first, going directly out the only official exit: the Benton parking lot doors. Please do not stop to talk and mingle at any point inside, and maintain physical distancing even until you are in the parking lot. We encourage you to mingle outside while maintaining physical distancing.
- **Washrooms:** Available for emergency use only. Please only use the ones in the Sanctuary basement, follow all signage and maintain physical distancing.
- **Coffee Hour** is cancelled until further notice.
- **Mingling:** Please do not mingle while indoors and respect 2 metre physical distancing at all times. Please refrain from shaking hands or other physical contact with people outside your social bubble.
- **Pastors** will not be greeting at the door or mingling indoors, but will make an effort to come outside asap after the service. If you wish to talk to them, best to call or email at another time. An in-person meeting may be scheduled.
- **Water Coolers** are not to be used.
- **Access** to the rest of the building (e.g. Office, Fellowship Hall, Nursery, Sunday school rooms, Scout Hall) is not permitted
- **Property Cleaning and Sanitizing:** Will be increased throughout this time
- **Music** will be provided by a variety of groups, including soloists, a chamber choir and the handbell choir.
- **Thank you for helping to keep all of us as safe as possible during this pandemic, by following these directions!**

## General Announcements

Dear members and friends of St. Matthews,

Our building is now open for worship again! Please read carefully through the informational letter sent out by email, mail and via the website and social media. If you have questions, please contact us. Please note that normal gatherings and meals at the church still remain cancelled and the office is still closed to the public and the building locked.

Our focus remains concentrated on meetings online and via phone. More updates will come as they are available.

All God's blessings! Pastors Sebastian and Carey

**Reserved Parking:** On Sunday mornings and other worship services, please *only* park in the 6 spots nearest the office entrance (including the "pastor" and "music director" spots), closest to the wall of the church if you are someone with mobility issues, or a parent with a stroller and young children. Our pastors and our music director come early enough to find a parking spot elsewhere. This is a transitional measure prior to installing permanent signage.

### Contact Information

519-742-0462 [www.stmattskw.com](http://www.stmattskw.com)  
(alt. office phone # 226-566-6059)

Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer Ext. 14  
[pastorcarey@stmattskw.com](mailto:pastorcarey@stmattskw.com)

Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer Ext. 23  
[pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com](mailto:pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com)

Deacon Scott Knarr Ext. 15  
[deaconscoott@stmattskw.com](mailto:deaconscoott@stmattskw.com)

Leanne Vanderhout Ext. 10  
[lvanderhout@stmattskw.com](mailto:lvanderhout@stmattskw.com)