

COME GROW SERVE

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Feast of Christ in Creation Sunday

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church!

Creation in Christ Sunday celebrates the ongoing creation of the world in and through Christ, who sustains, unites, and holds all created things. We hear today of the triune God who creates all things: sun and moon, shining stars, sea monsters, creeping things and flying birds—and, yes, even human beings. God-in-Christ still takes care of all things and invites us to join in as caretakers of God's good creation.

*Words printed in **bold** are spoken by all. Visitors are invited to sign the guest registry in the Narthex or fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate.*

THIS SERVICE IS LIVE STREAMED. TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

GATHERING

WELCOME

P: Welcome to those who are joining us online. Welcome to worship at St. Paul's!

PRELUDE

Allemande from French Suite V in G Major

J.S. Bach

The assembly is invited to stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life, in the name of Christ ✠, the pulse of life, and in the name of the Spirit, the breath of life.

All: Amen. Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

P: Christ, we come into your presence today to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

All: a planet filled with your presence: majestic in the forests, potent in the land, pulsing through the wilderness, shimmering with the rivers.

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

All: Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

P: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to you, our God, forever and ever. Amen

All: Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water—the Chicago River, Skokie Lagoons and Lake Michigan, the rain that nourishes animals and plants, the water for drinking and bathing. We praise you, O God, for water.

All: We praise you, O God, for water.

P: We praise you, O God, for our water stories—a flood that cleansed the earth, the sea that drowned the enemy, a river that healed leprosy. We praise you, O God, for water.

All: We praise you, O God, for water.

P: We remember the waters of Jesus—baptized in the Jordan River, calming the Sea of Galilee, drinking from Jacob’s Well, healing at the pool of Bethesda, washing the disciples’ feet. We praise you, O God, for water.

All: We praise you, O God, for water.

P: We praise you, O God, for this font, for through this water you have birthed us into the family of Christ, bathed us in forgiveness, and enlivened us in the Spirit. We praise you, O God, for baptism.

All: We praise you, O God, for baptism.

P: O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.
O God, you are the River, saving us from death.
O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.
We praise you, O God, today, tomorrow, forever. Amen, and amen.

All: Amen, and amen.

GATHERING HYMN

All Creatures of Our God and King

ELW 835, v. 1-3

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray.

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-2:3

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ^{2:2} On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ^{2:3} So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it

God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148:1-14 (Read responsively; congregation in **bold**)

¹ Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

² **Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!**

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ **He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be pas:**

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ **Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² **Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close
to him. Praise the Lord!**

SECOND READING: Acts 17:22a. 24-28

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,
‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-5

The Holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pr. Jeanine Reardon

Please stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY

Mothering God

ELW 735

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need, responding to each petition with the words, "Your mercy is great."

A brief silence.

A: O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray: that churches around the globe collaborate in care for the earth, and that all the baptized nurture a zeal for the wellbeing of creation. Hear us, O God, source of life and ground of our being:

All: Your mercy is great.

A: For the earth we pray: that this bounteous creation receive continued divine blessing, that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plenteous and clean, that the land be treasured, and that animals be protected. Grant that what on earth has been despoiled will be healed. Hear us, O God, our creator and fruitful garden:

All: Your mercy is great.

A: For the nations we pray: that farmers, herders, foragers, fishers, and grocers provide the food humans need, that legislators strive in all things for the common good, and that science and technology lead us toward more responsible ways to live. Hear us, O God, our stronghold and sun of justice:

All: Your mercy is great.

A: For our country we pray: that national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges be safeguarded, that all natural resources benefit the whole population, and that our children learn respect for nature. Hear us, O God, our guardian and rainbow of promise:

All: Your mercy is great.

A: For those in need we pray: that humankind be sheltered from pandemic and from extreme weather, and that all who are sick or suffering receive medical attention and communal support. Give heed to those whose names we call out to you either silently or aloud (*pause*). Hear us, O God, our healer [and heart of the universe]:

All: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We praise you for Hildegard of Bingen, Francis of Assisi, and for all your beloveds who have lived and died in communion with the earth. Grant that in your good time we join with all your creatures in your presence forever. Hear us, O God, the beginning and the end:

All: Your mercy is great.

A: Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING

An offering is gathered and the Table is set.

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Lone Wild Bird
Rachel Blaustein, soprano

arr. David N. Johnson

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things: our Savior, Jesus Christ. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out of the womb. You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing; all you create is a sign of hope for our journey. And so as the morning stars sing your praises, with the heavenly beings and all creation, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: O God, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song: The earth is full of your glory.

All: The earth is full of your glory.

P: O God, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song: The earth is full of your glory.

All: The earth is full of your glory.

P: We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth. 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.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song: The earth is full of your glory.

All: The earth is full of your glory.

P: O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again: The earth is full of your glory.

All: The earth is full of your glory.

P: Amen, and amen.

All: Amen, and amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Together as one body, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us. **USE ECUMENICAL**

All: 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

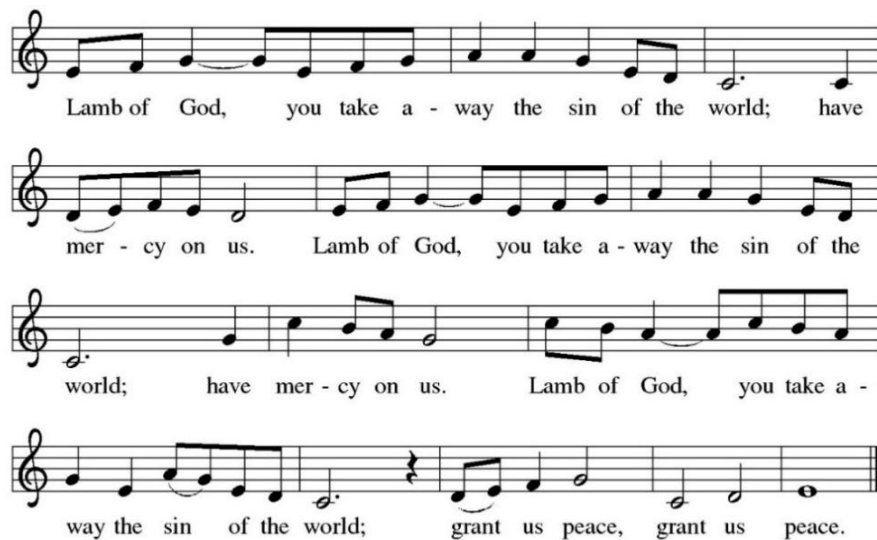
INVITATION TO COMMUNE

P: The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

	<u>DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION</u>
<i>We will commune one side of the church at a time. Please come forward to receive the bread first. Gluten free wafers are available. You may choose a cup of red wine or white grape juice. Move to the side eat and drink. Place your empty cup in the tray provided.</i>	

All are welcome at Christ's Table. We believe Jesus is the host and the gifts of God are for everyone. Child-ren will be offered communion unless otherwise indicated by parents. The wine is red and grape juice is white.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION

Here is Bread

ELW 483

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

P: Now may the power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind, and your body to heal your wounds and, through your healing to all the earth. In Jesus' name,

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

SENDING

Please be seated for the announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to stand.

SENDING BLESSING

P: God our Mother root you deep in grace. God our Neighbor stand with you in strength. God our Nourishment sustain you in hope and bless you unto evergreen life.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

ELW 836

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Waltz in Ab Major, Op 69, No. 1

F. Chopin

THANK YOU

To our musicians, Ann Yi, piano (substituting for Kurt) and Rachel Blaustein, soprano.
To LuAnne Origer and Bill Kastilahn for hosting coffee fellowship.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For Joan Brandt.

For Jan Rock, as she recovers from stenoses.

For Bill Kastilahn, recovering from eye interaction with medication.

For Frank (godparent) and Mary Anderson, and the parents of Gillian Olson,
as they mourn her death.

For Joe Berube, husband of Sue Murphy (director of Interfaith Action), on his
cancer diagnosis.



To donate via Zelle, aim your device's camera at the code on the left, click on the link and follow the instructions. Or you can go to your bank's website, go to Zelle payments and look for "office@stpaulvanston.org."

PASTORAL FELLOW: JEANINE REARDON



Friends call me Jeanie. I was born in South Central Illinois and moved to Chicago in 1998. I am married to Julie, and we parent Max. We have lived in Berwyn since 2011.

I have had many jobs, but one vocation. My work is to connect and be connected to people. I am an ordained pastor. I have trained chaplains for the last decade and a bit in an acute care hospital. I have served 4 years as a Berwyn city Alderman. I have been a student pastor, an interim pastor and am now seeking a settled congregational call. I hate being bored.

I love books and singing, cats and hammocks, preaching and pickleball. I have ADD and a doctorate in procrastination. I love to laugh and watching a crackling fire in the back yard. I am looking forward to spending a couple of weeks among my family and friends at St. Paul's.