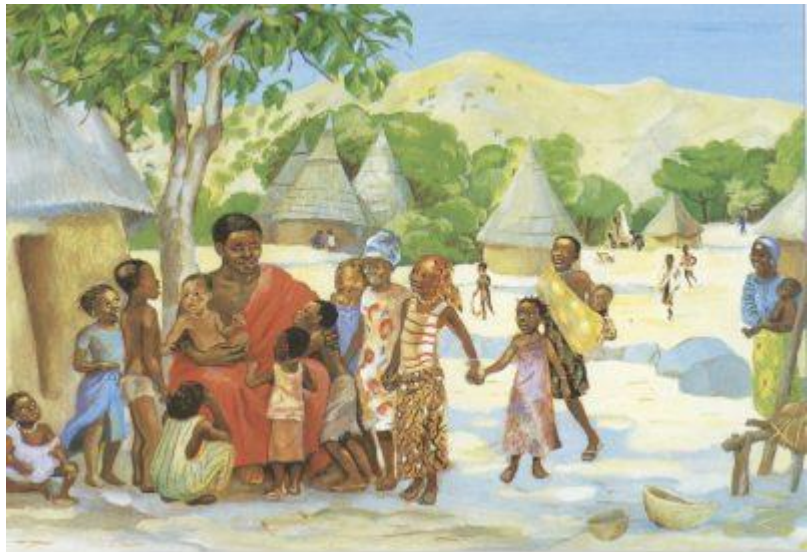


**World  
Communion  
Sunday  
Season of  
Creation**  
October 6, 2024



*Jesus welcomes the children; Jesus MAFA*

**We Gather in Response to God's Invitation**

THE GIFT OF MUSIC TO GATHER US

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AFFIRMATION OF MISSION:

We declare ourselves to be a Christ-centered Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming persons into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identities and expressions, ability, culture, economic status, ethnicity, or family composition.

We recognize that there are differences among us, but believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. We proclaim this covenant of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in church and society. We invite all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*RESPONSIVE*)

*\*An asterisk indicates when the people stand in body or spirit. Bolded text indicates when the people speak.*

*One:* God's Word has been lived among us! We gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

*All:* **Christ is a part of God's ongoing creation.**

**We gather before the One who is heir to all things.**

Long ago, God spoke to your spiritual ancestor.

Today, God continues that revelation through Christ's Spirit.

**Who are we that God is mindful of us? Yet God crowns us with glory and honor.**

Jesus has named us as siblings.

We are called to recognize all humanity as children of God.

**The realm of God is for all people. God's dominion is over all creation.**

\*OPENING PRAYER (*TOGETHER*)

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

We have trusted in you, eternal God, and that trust brings us to this time of worship. In this place, your steadfast love becomes evident again as we sing our songs of thanksgiving and tell of your wondrous deeds. We are grateful for the life and witness of Jesus, whom you sent among people to make possible our reconciliation and healing. For the saving grace available where you reign, we give thanks. Help us to be childlike, to receive your blessing, and to welcome your embrace. Take us into your arms, we pray. Amen

\*SINGING TOGETHER:

“Indescribable”

*Verse 1:* From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea  
Creation's revealing Your majesty.  
From the colors of Fall to the fragrance of Spring  
Ev'ry creature unique in the song that it sings.  
All exclaiming

*Chorus 1:* Indescribable, uncontainable,  
You placed the stars in the sky  
And You know them by name.  
You are amazing God.  
All powerful, untamable,  
Awestruck, we fall to our knees  
As we humbly proclaim:  
You are amazing God.

*Verse 2:* Who has told ev'ry lightning bolt where it should go,  
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow?  
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light,  
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night?  
None can fathom

*Verse 1*

*Chorus*

*Indescribable by Jesse Reeves and Laura Story CCLI Song #4403076 © 2004 Laura Stories; sixsteps Music; worshiptogether.com songs*

## **We Pray for Transformation and New Life**

### INTRODUCTION

At our best, we seek to be upright and blameless, people of integrity who live with unwavering trust in God. We aspire to live as siblings of Jesus Christ, faithful and responsive to our Creator. But, in truth, we forget God in our distractions and busyness, and we turn from the way of love in our relationships with others. There is much for us to confess.

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*TOGETHER*)

**All-seeing God, we would like to wash our hands in innocence, but we cannot escape our sins. We compare ourselves favorably with people we label worthless or hypocrites, but that very judgement breaks faith with you. We avoid bribery and other evil devices, yet we would still like to have advantages for ourselves over others. We are not bloodthirsty, but we have not yet adopted the way of peace. We humbly seek forgiveness as little children in need of your welcoming love. Amen.**

*Time of silent confession.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

When we come as children, acknowledging our dependence on God for life and all that sustains it, we recognize that loving arms surround us, and hands of blessing rest on our lives. We are siblings of Jesus Christ, who is not ashamed to claim us and to walk with us through life. Rejoice that God tests our hearts and minds and helps us grow. Amen.

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*(As a sign of our deep fellowship and communion with God and with one another, let us greet one another with a handshake or peace sign and bless one another with the peace that comes from being in Christ.)*

God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, offers us peace that we might be bearers of peace to our neighbors and our common home. The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

\*SUNG RESPONSE

“A Creation Hymn”

*chorus from VBS*

**Glory to the one who made it all; the sea great and wide, the land to provide.**

**Glory to the one who made it all: eternally wise, You made us to shine**

**With your glory, with your glory.**

*Amanda Meisenheimer and Andrea Hamilton*

## **We Listen for God’s Word**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, Lover of humanity, Joy of creation: Pour out your Spirit on us that we may hear your ancient words in a new key. Inspire us to sing your praise in every land and with every generation, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING:

GENESIS 2:18-24

<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” <sup>19</sup> So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life’s journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

the man there was not found a helper as his partner. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called Woman,  
for out of Man this one was taken.”

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING

PSALM 8

*The psalmist sings of divine majesty and human dignity. Our responsive reading begins.*

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**You have set your glory above the heavens.**

Out of the mouths of babes and infants

you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

**When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;**

**what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them a little lower than God

and crowned them with glory and honor.

**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;**

you have put all things under their feet,

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

**O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

GOSPEL READING

MARK 10:13-16

*Jesus blesses little children. Hear the Good News.*

<sup>13</sup> People were bringing children to him in order that he might touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup> But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup> And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

May these words of scripture speak life into your spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION:

Equilla Curry

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

SINGING TOGETHER

“Great Spirit God”

Black #341 verses 1 - 3, 5

**Great Spirit of God, the things which are yours are numerous and great.  
The heavens above you set in their place,  
and earth received its form by your hands.  
The ocean depths respond to your will, for you can do all things.  
Your will, mysterious and so strong, brings growth to all the earth.  
Food for our souls and clothing to wear,  
are like your cup that blesses and fills.  
Provide for us each day of our lives sufficient for our needs.  
You gave your law to Adam and Eve, forebears of humankind.  
The law I disobeyed with my sin,  
and now I suffer pain and disgrace.  
Jesus, express your mercy to me, and pay for all my sins.  
Your sacrament entrusted to us, Jesus, now share with me.  
Your bread of life and drink for our souls,  
which you have offered, purify now.  
Sanctify minds and bodies to you; restores us by your love.**

**We Respond to God’s Word**

A TIME FOR PRAYER

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

*You are invited to share joys and concerns we can pray for together. Let our sharing itself be an act of prayer.*

PRAYERS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this  
day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against  
us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ENCOURAGEMENT TO SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*You are invited to place your gifts in the offering basket as you arrive or depart from our worship together.  
(Along with your regular offering you are invited to make an offering to the Our Daily Blessings food pantry by  
putting your loose change and crinkly cash in a can. With your change we can “make a joyful noise to the  
Lord”!)*

Look around you with a sense of awe and wonder. Even in the most difficult circumstances of life, we can find beauty and integrity and places where God’s abiding glory is evident. Let us give thanks for God’s imprint on our lives, for the sustaining word that gives purpose to our days, and for the ministry in which we are engaged together, as we present our offering.

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life’s journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**



SUNG RESPONSE: DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.**

DEDICATING OUR OFFERING (*TOGETHER*)

**As long ago you spoke through the prophets, speak now through us and through the fruits of our labor which we share. We dedicate to your service all the good things we have received from your hand. May we proclaim your name to our siblings in this congregation. May our gifts carry the good news throughout our community, making a difference in the quality of life experience by many, near and far. Amen.**

## **We Come to the Lord's Table**

INVITATION

As human beings we gather round this table at God's calling like a flock, shoal or swarm.... We are drawn together to receive whom we are: to be more than our communities, or even our churches, can be alone. Like the Earth, we do not own Christ's table; and like our common home, it's 'ours' only when we share. Yet here, we're welcome: like those friends Christ first gathered. Welcome for justice; fulfilment and love. Welcome, with prophets and publicans with eco-warriors and dodgy characters with those you'd expect and those you'd rather weren't here. Welcome to celebrate being a work of God repurposed as friends of Jesus refreshed by bread and wine through human hands, from Earth's own self on whom, and whom, we feed.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you and in you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to God**

Give thanks to the Lord our God

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

COMMUNION PRAYER

Throughout all ages, as mountains dance and trees applaud the cries of birth are also loud for all to hear and tend. Your Sabbath and Jubilee made space for all Creation's refreshment. But we made exceptions. Your People sought milk and honey, yet injustice laid lands waste. Your prophets, priests and farmers call us to account. Yet your loving signs of warning fall often by the wayside. And greed and pride inspire harmful choices knowingly embraced. Yet still comes Christ Jesus, friend of all creatures, beloved of the poor, who scolded the seas, taught with trees, and the wild wind of God's Spirit. With Christ we shoulder the cross of healing; we shudder at the disaster of truth denied by

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

power, and yet... Risen and present through food and faith, Christ calls us afresh to care for a damaged world.

**Holy holy holy God of power shared**

**Sky and soil's abundant glory:**

**Hosanna: help us God! Hosanna: heal Creation!**

#### BLESSING OF BREAD & WINE

God, Sustainer, gusting and fluttering life with the good things of the Earth: food and drink we offer; flesh and blood we are. As Jesus did, so do we: We break this bread (*bread is broken*) We share this wine (*cup is filled and raised*)

**We trust that Christ who died is Christ who rose**

**And Christ who comes again**

As John said, seeing Christ:

**Lamb of God, you take away what truly harms the Earth;**

**Show compassion: Send your peace**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

#### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*TOGETHER*)

**God-with-Earth, we thank you that you have invited us to your table and fed us. We are remade and repurposed in your presence. We trust that in this meal you have empowered us to see your creating, redeeming and sustaining power in who we are that we might cherish one another, all your creatures, and in your creation in which we live and move and have our being. Whether our cares be light or heavy, our song be strong or weak, we thank you for keeping our hearts warm, our hands open, our lives ever embracing and embraced by your love Amen.**

### **We Go Out to Serve**

#### \*SINGING TOGETHER

“Light of the World”

Sing! #147

**You are the moon you are the sun. You shine your light on every one.**

**We offer praise for all you've done. Light of the world.**

**You are the wind you are the rain. You are the song, you're our refrain.**

**You are the One who calls our names. Light of the world.**

**Light of the world in us reveal all that our eyes can never see.**

**Show us a world, joyful and free, Light of the world.**

**Light of the world bring lasting peace. Justice and mercy for the weak.**

**Show us the paths our lives must take, Light of the world.**

#### \*GOOD WORDS FOR GOING FORTH (*RESPONSIVE*)

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

May the everlasting God shield you wherever you go  
And the blessing of God be upon you  
**the blessing of the Giver of life**  
The blessing of God be upon you  
**the blessing of the Christ of love**  
The blessing of God be upon you  
**the blessing of the Spirit of peace.**  
The blessing of the Trinity be upon you now and evermore.  
**Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“For You Shall Go Out”

Sing! #52

**For you shall go out and be let forth with peace,  
And the mountains and hills shall break forth before into song;  
and the leaves on the trees shall clap xx their hands.**

TAKE WITH YOU GOD’S GIFT OF MUSIC

WE RETURN TO THE WORLD

RENEWED AND EMPOWERED BY GOD’S SPIRIT

As our worship ends, our service begins.

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*Adapted from A Creation Inclusive Liturgy for Holy Communion by Rev DJM Coleman, EcoChaplain, EcoCongregation Scotland.*

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life’s journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

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