

September 13, 2020 — Second Sunday in the Season of Creation

Announcements:

Virtual Town Hall immediately after worship September 20

Worship September 20 LIVE

Worship September 27 and October 4 RECORDED

Pastor Dottie on vacation September 21 — October 4

Virtual Bless the Pets Service October 11, 11 am

Virtual Church Conference October 24, 10am

Call To Worship

L: Sing praise to God who rescues us when we fall!

P: Sing praise to God who walks with us on all our journeys!

L: Even though we fall, God lifts us and places us on paths of peace.

P: Even though we stray, God finds us and brings us back to lives of hope.

L: Thanks be to God, whose love is continually with us.

P: Praise be to God, whose mercy is over us all. AMEN.

Opening Prayer

We sing and speak your praise, O God, grateful for the many ways in which you have healed us. Keep our hearts, our minds, and our spirits open to learn ways in which we can offer healing love for others. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

Scripture

Exodus 14: 19—31

Psalms 114

Sermon

POST SERMON PRAYER

Lord of all existence

Of land and sea and sky

Fish and fowl and butterfly

Help us to find each other in the fellowship of created beings

And to celebrate our diversity

In love and praise of you,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Prayers of the People

Let us pray ...

For Christians throughout the world who celebrate the life, Love, teachings and resurrection of Jesus, that we may know that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, and for all peoples of faith and their beliefs we pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For leaders of the nations and cities of the world, that they may be wise in their administration of government during this pandemic, and selflessly serve the common good, we pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all bishops, pastors, and leaders of our congregations, that they may faithfully tend the family of God during this season of social distancing, we pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers who tend the sick and dying, that they fulfill their vocation without undue fear of personal danger, we pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are sick and those alone in quarantine, that they may find comfort and care in their time of need, we pray to the Lord,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the earth you have given to our care, and for all creatures who share it with us, that you may be glorified in all your works, we pray to the Lord,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For other concerns, we pray to the Lord:

Rex Miller at Solomons Nursing Center

Roberta Bordash for healing for her leg and after her kidney stone surgery

Lord, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, Jesus conquered death and offered to us your salvation. Grant that we who greet our risen Lord may follow him from the empty tomb into eternal life, for he lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

Offering

Online giving at <https://www.solomonsumchurch.org/online-giving/>

Mail offering to PO Box 403 Solomons MD 20688

As God has blessed our lives with abundant love and gifts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to this place, seeking to help others, to offer comfort and hope. Let us receive our morning offering.

Prayer of Dedication

Lord of all mercy and compassion, bless these gifts lovingly offered and all the people here. Help us to use these gifts for ministries of hope through our church and into our community, nation and world. AMEN.

CONFESSION

Lord God our maker and our redeemer this is your world and we are your people: come among us and save us.

We have misused your gifts of creation, and have regarded them as nothing more than resources for us to exploit. Look with mercy on your people:

All: and forgive us.

We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid. Look with mercy on your people:

All: and forgive us.

We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbors as ourselves. Look with mercy on your people:

All: and forgive us.

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Savior, forgive us our sins, pour into our hearts his compassion, his wisdom, and his strength, and make us holy to serve him in the world, that all creation may recognize its worth through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God
of all of Creation
It is right to give God thanks and praise

You spoke the Word and all that is in heaven and on the earth, all things,

came to be. Your Spirit hovered over the primal elements, and you brought forth life in forms innumerable, including this our fragile earth, and we amongst its inhabitants.

As our past is in you, so our hope for the future rests with you. As we have turned from your way, so we turn again to the warmth of your love. Through you all things are brought to new life.

And now we give you thanks for the glories of your creation given into our care, and for the opportunities we have to share that richness with all your people.

And so with the wonders of creation and the songs of praise of all your creatures both in heaven and on earth we praise you now and forever saying:

Holy, holy, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory; hosanna in the highest! Blessed in the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, work of human hands, gift of our earth, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread to speak to us of the breaking of his body upon the cross.

He gave it to his friends and said:

Take and eat, for this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

He took the wine, work of human hands, gift of our earth, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He poured out the wine to speak to us of the pouring out of his blood. He gave it to his friends saying:

This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me.

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.

Therefore God, we who seek your reconciliation; we who need reconciliation one with another; we who hope for reconciliation with all creation, draw close to this mystery.

In being broken, poured out and buried, life sprang forth again. In the breaking, there is an opening up; in the pouring out, there are the roots of sharing; in

death and burial, there is the seed of the new life to come.

As we look in our world, in our lives, and in our hearts, for his second coming, keep us close to this vision that we have seen. Through the giving in the bread and wine, reconcile us to our world. Send upon us, and upon all your creation, the life-giving Spirit who first moved upon the waters of the deep. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive. Unite us with you through the body and blood of your Son, your Word made flesh.

By whom, and with whom and in whom, in the unity of your Creative Spirit, with all that has been, is, and will be in your universe, we stand before you and worship you, God of all, in songs of everlasting praise,

Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples in
the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in his redeeming work,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

SENDING OUT

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Love your neighbour and Go in the peace of Christ.

Go out into the world rejoicing, and encounter the Creator who waits to meet you there;

Rejoice in its richness and diversity and live as those who praise God for its bounty; and the blessing of the Creator God, the Eternal Father, the Risen Son and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you that you might be a blessing to others today and always.

Amen.

REFLECTION

Protecting the Commons
by Rev Shaun Cozett, South Africa

In 1964 Garit Hardin wrote his famous piece "Tragedy of the Commons". In it Hardin tells the story of two adjacent properties, one privately owned and one common property. Hardin observes that the state of the private farm is much better than that of the common. He explains that the owner of the private property understands that grazing his cattle on a certain patch until the patch is fully grazed and then moving the cattle along to another patch in order to allow the grazed patch to recover is important because the owner has a personal interest in the longevity of his property. At the same time, the common is overgrazed because herders have no personal interest in protecting what is held in common.

This story of the tragedy of the commons has become an important story in understanding how we are to care for the environment. Hardin's story tells us that unless we begin to care for common property as shared property for the benefit of all we will suffer the consequences of systems breaking down. Already we are beginning to see the impact that our use of fossil fuels has on the climate. For the past two decades the leaders of the world have been meeting to discuss how best they might respond to the impending climate crisis. The basis of all these talks has been that every country is focussed on what they need and talks have often stalled because one country waits for another to make the first move. All this while carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere increase, storms become greater in number and severity and record high and low temperatures are set on an almost annual basis. The same can be seen in other systems such as the oceans, which are becoming more acidic, forests that are being felled, water resources drying up and arable land becoming deserts.

Living the Word

This week's texts remind of the importance of community. We are reminded of God establishing the people of Israel as God's own people and how God acts for them in order that the covenant that God made with Abraham may be fulfilled. A common theme across the texts tells us to value community and to do all we can in order to protect our lives together. As we focus on the environment during the Season of Creation, we are called also to look at common property within the community and on the planet for example the oceans, the air, fresh water and open spaces. These places are not owned by anyone, but their survival depends on all of us working together. Our failure in the past to protect common property has led to the near-collapse of ecosystems throughout the world. Who cares for common property? Do we have an interest in the places we do not own? Do we recognize the importance of common property for the good of the community?

<http://sustainable-preaching.org/2020/09/13/15th-sunday-after-pentecost-season-of-creation-2/>