



"Peaceable Kingdom" by John August Swanson, 1994.

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH** OF CHRIST

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor
Matthew Lawrenz, Musician

www.uccmke.org

In this twentieth Sunday after the Pentecost event, we make our last lap of our Emerge sermon series by exploring scripture that has to deal with returning to Godly ways. We previously explored scriptures which dealt with the love of one's neighbor and the love of the powerless. This week we explore the love of creation. In the Old Testament scripture from Genesis 1, God brings an ordered and good creation into existence. God invites humankind to participate in this creation by naming and caring for the animals and plants of the earth. In our Gospel lesson from John, we hear the announcement that God's Word, which brought all things into being, became flesh in Jesus of Nazareth. For God so loved the world that God gave God's only beloved Son to save the world. Both scriptures for today underscore how important it is for us to care for God's creation. Not only has God entrusted us to care for the earth, but John's Gospel invites us to ponder what happens if there is no earth for Christ to save. During this highly divisive time in our country's history, we can hopefully agree about the importance of conserving our world. May these scriptures remind us that fighting like a Christian does not only mean standing up for humanity – but for God's good creation as well.

Prelude
Blessing for a Face Mask

Prelude on RHOSYMEDRE

Vaughn-Williams
Mary Luti

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King

vss. 1, 2,4, 5

Opening Litany

UCC Worship Ways

Rev. Susan A. Blain

The Earth is beautiful, and bright, and kindly, but that is not all.

(Ursula K. Le Guin)

God's presence and power are in every corner of the universe!

Creation [is] God's presence in creatures. *(Wendell Berry)*

Praise God all creatures of the earth!

All the stones that are around here, each one has a language of its own.

Even the earth has a song. *(Wallace Black Elk)*

Let the stones sing their songs to God!

It is only the infinite mercy and love of God that has prevented us from tearing ourselves to pieces and destroying God's entire creation long ago. *(Thomas Merton)*

God's mercy and love are unending!

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. *(Rachel Carson)*

Let us see and proclaim the beauty of the Living God!

Opening Prayer

The Gloria

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World with-out end, without- end Amen. World with-out end,



"Let There Be" by Lauren Wright Pittman.

with-out end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Music and Words: Paul Vasile, ©2008, Paul Vasile. Permission granted by the composer for use in worship.

Old Testament

Genesis is a book about beginnings. It begins with the creation of the world and moves to the ordering of families and nations. In this story, God creates a good and imaginative world. Genesis begins with what is known as the primeval story, in which God, with the help of various agents, creates the world. God does not leave the world to its own devices. God remains active and present. God also calls the first humans into the creative process by naming and caring for the living things of the earth.

Genesis 1:1-31



"God the Architect" from the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek.

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Susan A. Blain, adapted

Today we gather in person and afar, sustained by the land of the First Peoples of the Lake Michigan region. The Great Lake and its surrounding rivers, after giving us life, watering our farms and serving our industries, makes its way across our country, and connects our lives and actions to the Atlantic Ocean, the great beasts of the sea, the fish that bring work to communities and feed people across the world...

God, we confess that we do not often bother to contemplate these things. We do not act responsibly. We do not act in the truth of our connectedness. We have not loved creation, or our neighbors, or the generations to come as ourselves. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in the courage and the wisdom and will to change.

God, we confess that we have been careless and wasteful in our use. We have been lazy and unimaginative finding solutions. The particles of pollution from our electricity and our cars make their way into the air we breathe. The plastics from our PPE, takeout containers, and communion cups are everywhere. The pollutants are absorbed into the rivers and the Great Lakes. We have not loved creation, or our neighbors, or the generations to come as ourselves.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in courage and the wisdom and will to change.

Assurance of Grace

Embodying grace and mercy, forests can be replanted. Waste sites can be cleaned. Wind can power the world. A human heart can change. God's goodness is true, God's promises are true, God's love is true. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen!

New Testament

John's Gospel is based on the testimony of *"the disciple whom Jesus loved."* It begins with an announcement that God's Word, which brought all things into being (the *logos*), became flesh in Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus' ministry reveals God's power through healing the sick, performing seven miraculous signs, and raising the dead. Jesus identifies himself as the bread of life, the light of the world, the vine, and the good shepherd during his preaching. Jesus is identified as God's only beloved Son whom God sent to the world. When Jesus was

John 3:11-21



"Awake My Soul" by Mike Moyers.

crucified, he laid down his life, giving God's love to the world. By rising from the dead, Jesus shows that those who believe in him have everlasting life.

Sermon
Song of Response
Prayers of the People

Emerge: Love of Creation
To God Be the Glory

Rev. Dan Stark

Prayer Song

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

#489

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
A-men.*

Invitation to Communion

The Sacrament of Communion

Holy, Holy, Holy!

*Holy, holy, holy
Lord, God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons blessed Trinity*

Telling the Story

Prayer of Consecration

Send your Spirit on this meal and on us, so that we may be true signs of your presence in the world.

Empower us to proclaim the good news of justice, peace, and love.

Closing Song

For the Fruit of All Creation

Litany of Sending and Blessing

Mary Luti

Our worship has ended, but its gifts remain:
Tuck its praise inside you.
Take its goodness with you.
Drink from its wells of lasting peace.
Live by its light, its courage and grace
And don't be afraid.
Seek to serve.
In plenty of in want,
Find ways to share.
Discern the truth and tell it,

Resist all wrong, and don't be afraid.
Regard all people as your people.
In hard times and good
Take care of yourself,
Take care of your people,
And don't be afraid.
And may the blessing of God, our life, the
friendship of Christ, our healer, and the daring
of the Spirit, our truth, be ours today, and every
day to come. Amen.

Postlude

Alla Marcia

Archer

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If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.
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We are currently gathering in person for worship with safety and sanitation protocols in place.
Learn more here. <https://www.uccmke.org/covid-19>

You can make your offering to Christ Church through [PayPal](#) or by mailing a check to Christ
Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

