

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ



*“Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
Praise the Lord!” – Psalm 148:10*

3rd Sunday of the Season of Creation
Animal Sunday
September 18, 2022
9:30 a.m.



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116
(440) 331-1773

The Rev. Marissa Harrison
pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org
Cell Phone: 813-494-6507

Office Administrator Deborah Dzurilla
deborah@goodsoillutheran.org

Worship & Music Coordinator Julia Alexander
julia.alexander@oberlin.edu

Website: GoodSoilLutheran.org
Facebook: [goodsoillutheranministries](https://www.facebook.com/goodsoillutheranministries)
Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

*Please Note: In an effort to protect those who are vulnerable, **masking is strongly recommended**. In addition, the first four rows of pews on the left side of the sanctuary are reserved as a “masking only” section (for those who wish to be in close proximity only with others who are masking).*

**3rd Sunday of the Season of Creation
Animal Sunday**

We continue in the Season of Creation—a time when the global church unites to intentionally reflect on God's presence in creation and our calling to care for it. We give thanks, we pray, we lament, we hope, and we recommit ourselves to healing our relationship with our sacred home. Today is Animal Sunday! We worship this Sunday with the entire living family on Earth. We celebrate with birds, animals, reptiles, and all our living relatives. We listen to their sounds, watch their movements, and wonder with them as they praise their Creator. We give thanks for and with all our kin in creation.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude and Welcome

† Call to Worship

In the name of the Creator of all animal life,
the name of Christ, the lamb of God,
and the name of the Spirit, the breath in all life. **Amen.**

P: We invite our animal family to worship with us,

C: **All our kin living on this planet,
From the busiest bee to the tallest giraffe.**

P: We remember our animal relatives who have become extinct,

C: **Dinosaurs, dodos and Texas grey wolves,**

	<p>Oregon bison and the woolly mammoth.</p> <p>P: We join our siblings in praising God, C: Gliding eagles and watchful cougars, Gorillas in the mist and polar bears in the snow.</p> <p>P: We summon the kin we have come to love, C: The stray cat and the backyard dog, the goat, the pony, and the little lamb.</p> <p>P: All our animal family in all the world, C: Raise your voices to the skies in a family festival of praise.</p> <p>P: We worship and sing with you, C: A song of praise for God and all creatures!</p>
	<p>† Invitation to Remembrance</p> <p><i>As we hold the remembrance candle, we remember animals with whom we felt a close kinship, creatures that are endangered, and/or species that have become extinct. Share about a special animal or animal encounter that helped you connect with God.</i></p>
<p><i>In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of</i></p>	<p>† Confession and Forgiveness</p> <p>As we remember animals and animal encounters that have helped us connect with God, we also remember those of our kin who are endangered, those who have had their homes destroyed, and those who have become extinct due to human greed and exploitation.</p> <p>We hear creation groaning. We hear our fellow creatures crying out in pain. We hear members of our animal family weeping. We share the sorrow, and we are sorry.</p> <p><i>Silence for reflection.</i></p>

<p><i>Baptism through repentance.</i></p>	<p>Christ, who was deeply grieved in Gethsemane, knows this sorrow and shares the suffering of all creatures. Christ teaches us compassion for the life around us that suffers, and invites us to embrace those in pain and care for those in danger. Amen.</p>
	<p>Gathering Hymn: Touch the Earth Lightly ELW 739</p> <p><i>During the Gathering Hymn, all are invited to come forward and light a candle in remembrance of animals with whom you felt a close kinship, creatures that are endangered, and/or species that have become extinct.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently, nourish the life of the world in our care: gift of great wonder, ours to surrender, trust for the children tomorrow will bear. 2 We who endanger, who create hunger, agents of death for all creatures that live, we who would foster clouds of disaster— God of our planet, forestall and forgive! 3 Let there be greening, birth from the burning, water that blesses, and air that is sweet, health in God's garden, hope in God's children, regeneration that peace will complete. 4 God of all living, God of all loving, God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun, teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us, using us gently, and making us one.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931
Text © 1992 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The presiding minister greets the assembly with the words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

† Hymn of Praise: For the Fruit of All Creation ELW 679 v 3

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

God, our Creator, we celebrate with all living creatures today. Help us to see your presence, not only in human history but also in the stories of our kin in creation, the great animal family. Teach us to hear the good news of God's loving care ringing through the kingdoms of the wild. Rejoice with us as we behold the mysteries of your Wisdom implanted in all creatures. In the name of Christ who fills heaven and Earth. **Amen.**

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Job 39:1-12, 26-29

A reading from Job:

39“Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer? ²Can you number the months that they fulfill, and do you know the time when they give birth, ³when they crouch to give birth to their offspring, and are delivered of their young? ⁴Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open; they go forth, and do not return to them. ⁵“Who has let the wild donkey go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift donkey, ⁶to which I have given the desert for its home, the salt land for its dwelling place? ⁷It scorns the tumult of the city; it does not hear the shouts of the driver. ⁸It ranges the mountains as its pasture, and it searches after every green sprout. ⁹“Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will it spend the night at your crib? ¹⁰Can you bind it with a rope to a plowed row; will it plow the valley behind you? ¹¹Will you depend on it because its strength is great, and will you hand over your labor to it? ¹²Do you have faith in it that it will return, and bring your grain to your threshing floor?

²⁶“Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars, and spreads its wings toward the south? ²⁷Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes its nest on high? ²⁸It lives on the rock and makes its home in

the fastness of the rocky crag. ²⁹From there it spies the prey; its eyes see it from far away.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104:14-23, 31

¹⁴You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth,
¹⁵and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.
¹⁶The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
¹⁷In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees.
¹⁸The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers.
¹⁹You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.
²⁰You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.
²¹The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.
²²When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens.
²³People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.
³¹May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

*We welcome
the gospel
by singing
the Gospel
Acclamation.*

† Gospel Acclamation



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.
Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Gospel reading is announced. We rise to our feet, if able, as a sign of respect and anticipation for the Gospel that reveals Jesus Christ to us.

† Gospel Reading: Luke 12:22-31

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²²He said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for Reflection

The Hymn of the Day invites the Assembly's participation in the sermon event—it is a response to the proclaimed Word of God.

† Hymn of the Day: God of the Sparrow ELW 740

- 1 God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise
- 2 God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature say Woe
How does the creature say Save
- 3 God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks
- 4 God of the hungry God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life
- 5 God of the neighbor God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace
- 6 God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

† Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith together:

We believe that God creates all things,
renews all things and celebrates all things.

We believe Earth is a sanctuary,
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,
a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood,
became a part of Earth,
a human being called Jesus Christ,
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,
suffered and died on a cross,
for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus
is the Christ at the core of creation
reconciling all things to God,
renewing all creation and filling the universe.

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation
groans in empathy with a suffering creation,
and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation. Amen.


As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing

† Prayers of Intercession

We thank you, O God, for our wondrous planet home and all the diverse creatures who call it home. Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all creatures who are endangered and we lament the loss of those who have already become extinct due to human negligence. Help us to be advocates for our creature-neighbors in need. Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

<p><i>our participation.</i></p>	<p>In addition to creatures, we pray for people in need: Max, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew, Jamie, Willie, Char, Jen, Rich, Jerry, Marie, Tony, Jeanette, Wardell, Gloria . . . and those whom we lift up in our hearts silently or aloud. Lord in your mercy, receive our prayer.</p> <p>We pray, O Christ, that you would teach us to empathize with Earth:</p> <p>Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the land, the seas, and the skies.</p> <p>Make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit in creation, groans of longing for restoration and renewal.</p> <p>Make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration echoing around us.</p> <p>Lord in your mercy, receive our prayer.</p> <p>Gathered together with all of creation in the communion of the Holy Spirit, we offer these and all our prayers to you. Amen.</p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.</i></p>	<p>† Passing of the Peace</p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always, And also with you.</p> <p><i>The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.</i></p>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Meal</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Offering</p> <p>God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an</p>

<p><i>is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p>impact by giving at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:</p> <p><i>Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.</i></p> 
<p><i>The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.</i></p>	<p>† Offering Hymn: All Creatures, Worship God Most High! ELW 835 v 1</p> <p>1 All creatures, worship God most high! Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright; sing, sister moon and stars of night: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> <p><small>Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.</small></p>
	<p>† Offering Prayer</p> <p>God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth. Amen.</p>
	<p>† Great Thanksgiving</p> <p>The Lord be with you. And also with you.</p> <p>Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.</p> <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>

† Sanctus

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . .
. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

† Words of Institution

*The Lord's
Prayer is
Jesus'
response to
his disciples
when they
asked him to
teach them
how to pray.*

† Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 trespasses,**

as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.**

† Invitation to the Table

Christ invites you to this table.
Come, taste and see.

Communion Hymns:

As the Deer Runs to the River ELW 331

1 As the deer runs to the river,
parched and weary from the chase,
we have come from hurt and hurry,
thirsting for your healing grace.

Refrain

Jesus, source of living water,
may we drink of you and live!

2 When your Israel crossed the desert
where no stream or spring was seen,
Moses struck the rock, and water
flowed for them, refreshing, clean. *Refrain*

3 "Come and drink," Isaiah summoned,
"all who for God's mercy plead!
God's forgiveness, like a fountain,
flows to satisfy your need." *Refrain*

4 Christ, we come from desert places,
deepest thirst unsatisfied.
Lead us to the waters flowing
from the cross on which you died. *Refrain*

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com.
800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Come, Let Us Eat ELW 491

- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
 come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
 Our Lord's body let us take together,
 our Lord's body let us take together.

- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
 come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
 Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
 Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

- 3 In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest,
 in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
 In the presence of our Lord we gather,
 in the presence of our Lord we gather.

- 4 Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,
 rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.
 Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,
 Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. c. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.

Text sts. 1-3 © Lutheran World Federation. Text st. 4 © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.

Amen.

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.

† Blessing

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's Wisdom sustaining this planet and all its creatures, including you. **Amen.**

† Sending Hymn: All Things Bright and Beautiful **WOV 767**

Refrain

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings. *Refrain*

2 The purple-headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. *Refrain*

3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them ev'ry one. *Refrain*

4 God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well. *Refrain*

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895, alt.

<i>The dismissal sends us out into the world as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!</i>	† Dismissal Go in peace, with Christ beside you. Thanks be to God.
	Postlude

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission.

Worship texts are from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright 2022. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS020986.

Music reprinted under One License #A-719034 or CCLI license #3013830. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Season of Creation liturgy adapted from the Season of Creation Ecumenical Resource (United States). Accessed here: <http://www.letallcreationpraise.org/united-states-ecumenical/wisdom-series-c> Used by permission.

Today's Worship Servants:

Presiding: The Rev. Marissa Harrison	Reader: Joan Zeager
Ushers: Sharon Hollowell Barbara Demko-Werner	Counters: Michael Wancata Stan Zeager
Online Usher: Adam Pate	Acolyte: Isaac Krankowski



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, September 18, 2022

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Max Bechtel; Jae, Jeff, and Oakley; Andrew Evatt; Ed Fink; Wardell Griggs; Chris Jacobson; Jamie Lanter; Willie Lee, Char Mattson; Jen Mitterholzer; Rich Petrusky; Jerry and Marie Sternad; Tony Sykaluk; Jeanette Weidlich; Gloria Weidlich

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries:
Jerry and Marie Sternad (Sept 24)

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism:
Scarlett Smith (Sept 20), Joy Christensen (Sept 23), Jack Smith (Sept 23)

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the glory of God by Sharon Hollowell.

Good Soil Sunday School Kick-Off Picnic will be today starting immediately after services with games and fellowship. Everyone is invited! We'll be outdoors (Fellowship Hall in case of rain). We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to Sunday School and seeing everyone in class beginning next week, September 25th.

REGISTER for Sunday School with a paper slip on the welcome table or by using this QR code:



Good Soil Calendar		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Sept 18	Season of Creation Animal Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Choir Practice • Sunday School Kickoff Picnic 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Tues, Sept 20	Good Soil Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Sun, Sept 25	Season of Creation Universe Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School Resumes! • Coffee Hour 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Sat, Oct 1	Ladies' Breakfast – Gene's Place	9:00 a.m.
Sun, Oct 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School • Coffee Hour 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Thurs, Oct 6	Confirmation Class at Bethesda on the Bay on Wolf Rd in Bay Village	5:30 p.m.

