

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Second Sunday in the Season of Creation: “Land Sunday”
September 10th, 2023
9:30 am



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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 worshipping 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. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice 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.

Second Sunday in the Season of Creation: “Land Sunday”

Celebrated by Christians around the world, the Season of Creation is a global movement where faith communities focus on how caring for creation is connected to our discipleship as followers of Jesus and as stewards of our shared, wondrous home. On Land Sunday, we remember that Jesus willingly goes into the Earth, redeeming the land from sin and death just as Christ redeems us. Today we worship with the land, the soil, and the land creatures.

Gathering

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

Prelude

Welcome

† Call to Worship

Come, worship the God of all Creation.

We praise the Creator, the continuous source of all living things.

Come, worship our God who breathes life into being.

We praise the Creator who fashions the forests, whose trees clean the air of this world,

Come, worship our God who forms life out of soil.

We praise the Creator whose land brings nourishment.

Come, worship our God who receives our lament in the wilderness.

We praise the Creator whose Son brings healing to all Creation.

Come, worship our God who sends waters flowing with life.

We praise the Creator whose baptism unites us as one Body of Christ in solidarity with all Creation.

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who so loves the world and all who live in it. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, Creation, and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
we expect nature to serve our needs, and we have damaged it in the process. We trample every wild place and pollute your waters. We abuse your good Earth until it cries out in pain. Forgive us, loving God. Remind us of the covenant you made with the whole Earth. Nourish us so we can restore your awe-inspiring Creation. Amen.

Christ, the one who was buried into the heart of the Earth and then raised up to new life, forgives you all your sin. Freed from your burdens, receive this forgiveness and be led by the Spirit to do God's healing work in the world. **Amen.**

† Gathering Hymn: For the Fruit of All Creation - ELW 679

- 1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,

in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

- 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.

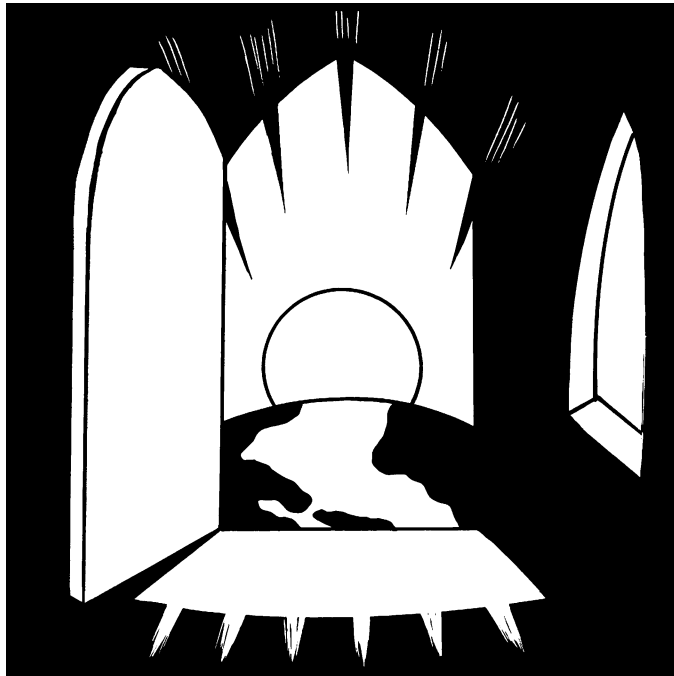
Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and 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: All things Bright and Beautiful - WOV 767 (v. 1, 4)

Refrain

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,
all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

God made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Refrain

The Prayer of the Day gathers all our praise into one and highlights themes from scripture that we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, sculptor of the land, we in our brokenness have damaged your Earth. Restore our relationship with the land in the name of Christ the Redeemer and Healer of all Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

The response "Word of God, Word of life," acknowledges the power of God's Word to shape our lives. "Thanks be to God" is a

The Word

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

First Reading: Psalm 139:1-10

To put this reading into context:

The Spirit of God is present throughout creation, from the heights of space to the depths of the ocean. The psalmist reminds us that there is no place we can go where God is not already present.

historic response which acknowledges that we have heard what was said.

Hear now the reading.

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
³You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
⁷Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
⁹If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

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

We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.

† **Gospel Acclamation – ELW 171***

The musical notation is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves. The first staff contains three phrases labeled 1*, 2, and 3. The lyrics are: He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. The second staff repeats the same melody and lyrics.

**This gospel acclamation tunes comes from our Muscogee (Creek) native siblings and may be sung in a round.*

Before and after the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel: Matthew 12:38-40

To put this gospel reading into context:

Jesus proclaims that he will go into the heart of the Earth to redeem the sin of all the world.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹But he answered them, "An evil and faithless generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth.

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

Children's Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for Reflection.

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice.

You're invited to reflect on the following question:

What physical spaces/places help you feel connected to God. What "grounds" you in your faith life? How might you be more intentional about cultivating, practicing, or strengthening that in the coming weeks?

† Hymn of the Day: Touch the Earth Lightly - ELW 739

- 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

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† Ionian Creed

We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon,
of water and earth, of all of creation.

We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.

A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,
he died alone and forsaken.

He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.

He ascended into heaven,
to be everywhere present throughout all ages,
and His kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of all resurrection and of eternal life.

Amen.

Ionian Creed, also known as the “Celtic Creed.” The Iona Community was founded in Glasgow and Iona in 1938 by George MacLeod, minister, visionary and prophetic witness for peace, in the context of the poverty and despair of the Depression. More here: <https://iona.org.uk> Creed accessed from: <https://modernliturgist.org/project/a-celtic-creed-2/>

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

† Prayers of Intercession

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

our own participation. Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith community
+ The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God*

Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, O God, cries for justice from the land and all land creatures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**


Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation, O God. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the prairies, and all the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick. Guard their waking and their sleeping. Today we especially pray for: Peter, Helen, Carl, Phyllis, Andrew, Joe, Martha and Jamie, Willie, Pat, Char, Keyla, Marlon, friends and family of Martha in the wake of her passing, Rich, Marie, Anna, Jeanette, Archer, Steve, Dick, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India, ... and all those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be a refuge and strength to us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

<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 and the surrounding creation by saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" and 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 is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</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 impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><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: This is My Father's World - ELW 824 (v. 1 & 3)</p> <p>1 This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.</p>

3 This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901

† Offering Prayer

Loving Creator, all Creation comes from you: forests, lands, prairies, rivers and streams, and all wild places. As we bring our offerings to you, we ask that you bless them so that your kingdom comes on Earth as it is in heaven; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

...With this bread and cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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

Come to the table to eat of the bread of the Earth and drink of the fruit of the vine—Christ's very body and blood—given for the whole cosmos.

Amen.

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.

When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center. Empty communion cups can be disposed of on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: As the Grains of Wheat - ELW 465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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† 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.

† Blessing

Almighty God, who breathes life into you and all living things, who
heals all the world, and who sustains all Creation, give you peace and
purpose, in the name of the Father, and the ✠ Son, and the
Holy Spirit.

Amen.

<p><i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i></p>	<p>† Sending Hymn: Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil - ELW 512 (2x)</p> <p>Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood. When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.</p> <p>Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950 Text © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.</p>
<p><i>The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!</i></p>	<p>† Dismissal</p> <p>Go in peace. Care for Creation. Thanks be to God.</p> <p><i>You're warmly invited to linger after worship for a special rock painting activity and outside coffee hour. Happy Land Sunday!</i></p>
	<p>Postlude</p>

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Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Chris Jacobson & Larry Jacobson	Reader: Trey Harrison
Acolyte: TJ Lanter	Counters: Larry Jacobson & Joe Lanter
Guitar: Joe Lanter	



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, September 10, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Peter Alexander, Helen Andrews, Carl Bruns, Phyllis Clapper, Andrew Evatt, Martha and Jamie Lanter, Willie Lee, Pat Lukas, Char Mattson, Keyla Mercado, Marlon Naylor, friends and family of Martha in the wake of her passing, Archer Oster, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Dick Schlupe, Marie Sternad, Anna Sykaluk, Jeanette Weidlich, Jane Welsh, and Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India.

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Mark Liston (9/12).

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God by JoAnne and Michael Wancata in loving memory of Herman Mahnke and Mildred Wancata.

The Season of Creation Has Begun! - The Season of Creation is an annual global movement where Christian communities pray and act to care for God's creation. During September, each Sunday will be themed around an aspect of nature. See calendar below for themes and dates!

Photos for River Sunday- If you'd like to be included in the worship slides for River Sunday (9/17), please submit your baptism photos and/or photos in or by rivers, streams, oceans, lakes, bodies of water, etc. to admin@goodsoillutheran.org by (9/14).

Suburban Cooperative Nursery School is currently enrolling 3 and 4 yr olds for the fall school year. For more information, please email suburbancoop@gmail.com, call 440-331-9929, or visit the website at <http://www.suburbancooperative.com>

Online Flower Sign-Up- Interested in signing up to adorn Christ's altar with flowers for worship? Now you can sign up online! Scan the QR code to the right to access the sign-up sheet! **Please note:** The physical flower sign-up sheet is still in effect on the bulletin board at the church and outranks the digital one. Best efforts will be made to ensure the digital calendar reflects the physical one, but if you happen to digitally sign up for a date that is already taken on the physical sheet, you will be contacted about rescheduling. A digital calendar may be viewed via a link in the sign-up sheet.



Beyond Chit-Chat Discussion Groups- Starting the week of September 24th, two small groups (one in-person and one on zoom) will begin meeting to discuss the book *Beyond Chit-Chat*. The first 10 people to sign up will receive a free copy of the book! If you miss that window, you will be notified with options regarding purchasing a book for \$10. If you're interested, please sign up using the QR code to the right, where you will find the sign-up sheet and summary of the book!



In-person small group: Tuesdays at 7 pm at Good Soil, 9/26, 10/10, and 10/24.

Zoom small group: Wednesdays at 7 pm, 9/27, 10/11, and 10/25.

Food ministry volunteer opportunities to help feed our neighbors:

1. Trinity Lutheran at Lakewood Congregational Church (1375 W Clifton Blvd, Lakewood) - on the third Saturday from 9am-12pm, through November. Upcoming dates: September 16, October 21, and November 18. *Please bring in extra plastic bags to help support this ministry or place in the bin in the upstairs hallway.*
2. New Covenant (1424 Hayden Ave, Cleveland) where Vicar Scott Wylie serves
Date: **September 23rd** from 8am-12pm

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Sept 10	Season of Creation – Land Sunday* Outdoor Worship (not livestreamed) & Outdoor Coffee Hour	9:30 am
Thurs, Sept 14	Confirmation Introduction Family Night @ Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran	5:45 pm
Sun, Sept 17	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Season of Creation– River Sunday and Austin Carlson's Baptism	9:30 am
Tues, Sept 19	Exec Meeting (7pm) and Council Meeting (7:45pm) via zoom	
Sun, Sept 24	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Season of Creation– Wilderness Sunday & Tithe Giveaway to Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries	9:30 am
Sun, Oct 1	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sat, Oct 7	Ladies Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am

Poem for Land Sunday

By Louise DeBell

As one approaches the sun filled slopes
Observation of going up a hill
Fills the mind
Pure thoughts to enhance
Dedicated eyes as we reach the top.
Bring us to the top
Stand and observe
We can do it
The sun is shining in our favor
Go down, get started and enjoy
You have the gumption and energy to continue.



