

Season of Creation:  
Rooted in God's Living Soil  
July 23, 2023  
8:30am



Central Lutheran Church  
1857 Potter Street  
Eugene, Oregon  
541-345-0395  
[www.connecttocentral.org](http://www.connecttocentral.org)

## Welcome to Central!

**Central Lutheran Church**, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Oregon Synod, is a Reconciling in Christ community: We affirm that Christ has made us one body with many members, all sharing in God's wondrous grace and unconditional love. We celebrate both the human variation and inclusive unity of God's family. Following Jesus' example, we embrace all of God's people regardless of ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic circumstance. With welcoming hearts, we invite you to join us in worship, fellowship, and ministry.

Our mission is to be the hands and feet of Jesus by *loving* God and one another, *nurturing* faithful living, *servicing* those in need, and *sharing* the Gospel.

**A special word of welcome to our guests today:** Thank you for worshiping with us. If you are a first-time or occasional visitor and would like to be added to our mailing list, or if you'd like to hear from us, we invite you to fill out the visitor information card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Also, if you wish to find out more about Central we invite you to visit our website *welcometocentral.org*.

**Parents of young children:** We welcome the sound of little ones in worship and so we encourage children and parents to worship together. However, if it is helpful to you, you are welcome to utilize the children's space located adjacent to the Narthex (entrance) to the Sanctuary. Additionally, there are children's bags and kid's bulletins available in the Narthex.

**Large print bulletins as well as hearing assistance receivers are also available** from the ushers. Please note: if your personal hearing device has a T-Coil there are Hearing Loops in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall.



**PRAYER OF LAMENT** (Adapted from *All Creation Sings*)

Gracious God, by day and night we pour out our prayer to you. We are crying out for justice, yearning for what is right, longing for your peace. We feel what we have lost from fire, from flood, from drought, from wind, and from earthquake. Many have been affected and are in pain. Come quickly to help us, O God; save those who call upon your name.

We grieve the fires that have raged across the West destroying years of growth in our wildernesses and living spaces and your people cry: **How long, O Lord?**

We grieve the droughts that have scorched crops and your people cry: **How long, O Lord?**

We grieve the floods that have destroyed habitats, villages, towns and cities and your people cry: **How long, O Lord?**

We grieve the earthquakes and tsunamis that have devastated communities and your people cry: **How long, O Lord?**

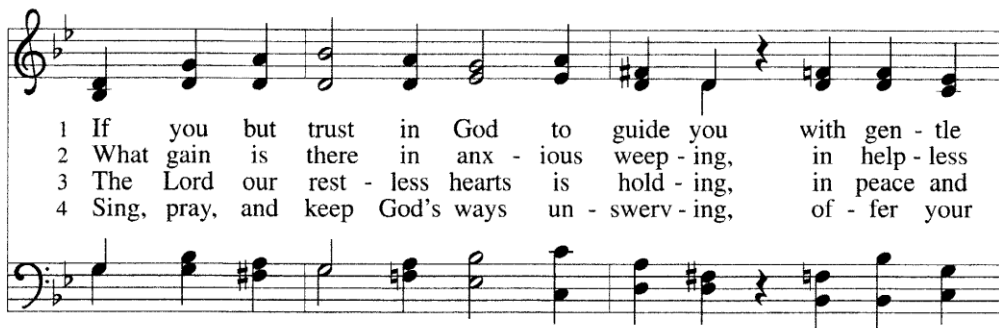
We see water sources declining and your people cry: **How long, O Lord?**

We see our already exhausted emergency and rescue workers overworked and your people cry: **How long, O Lord?**

We feel our own complicity in the destruction of your world, yet see the problems as so complex that we do not know how to address them and your people cry: **How long, O Lord?**

Loving God, inspire by your Holy Spirit those who are afraid of losing hope. Keep us working and praying for the day when your justice will roll down like waters, and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Assure us of your resurrection life that springs forth from death. Replenish our strength and stir up our hope as we look for signs of your coming reign. And fill us with the peace that passes understanding—the deep peace of Jesus Christ our Savior, in whose holy name we pray. **Amen.**

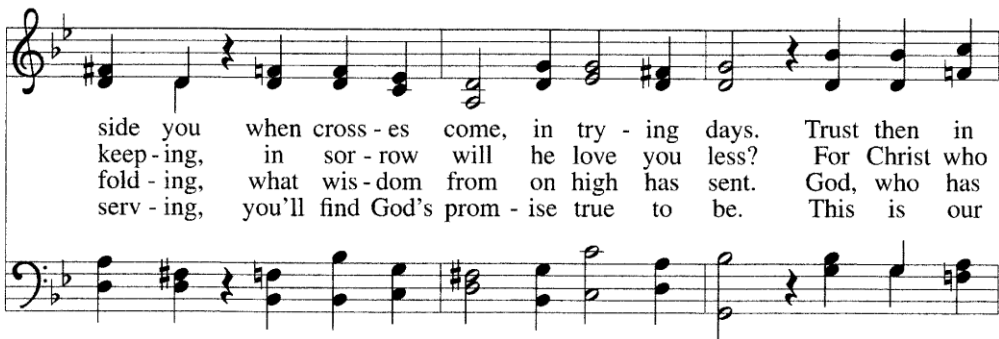
# HYMN #769 If You But Trust in God to Guide You



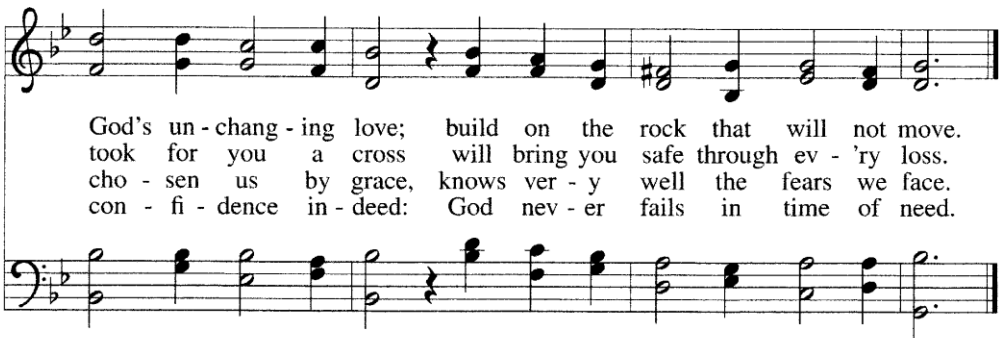
1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle  
2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less  
3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and  
4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -  
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's  
qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -  
ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in  
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who  
fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has  
serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.  
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.  
cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.  
con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

## 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.**

## KYRIE

*Cantor* Lord, have mer - cy. *Assembly* Lord, have mer - cy. *Plainsong*

*Cantor* Christ, have \_\_\_ mer - cy. *Assembly* Christ, have \_\_\_ mer - cy.

*Cantor* Lord, \_\_\_ have \_\_\_ mer - cy. *Assembly* Lord, have \_\_\_ mer - cy.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Living God, you call us to be in relationship with the earth and all that you have made. Forgive us when, through our greed or indifference, we abuse its beauty and damage its potential. Even as we acknowledge our fear for the future of creation, empower us, through your Spirit, to partner with you in protecting this precious world and the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors. In Jesus's name, we pray. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING Jeremiah 12:1b-4

You will be in the right, O Lord, when I lay charges against you, but let me put my case to you. Why does the way of the guilty prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive? <sup>2</sup>You plant them, and they take root; they grow and bring forth fruit; you are near in their mouths yet far from their hearts. <sup>3</sup>But you, O Lord, know me; you see me and test me; my heart is with you. Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and set them apart for the day of slaughter. <sup>4</sup>How long will the land mourn and the grass of every field wither? For the wickedness of those who live in it, the animals and the birds are swept away, and because people said, "He is blind to our ways."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING ROMANS 8:18-30**

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. <sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*please stand*)

It is written, “One does not live by bread alone, **but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.**”

**GOSPEL READING John 1:1-4**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Jesus said, I tell you if the people were silent, **the very stones would shout out.**

**SERMON**

Pastor Eric Dull



## HYMN OF THE DAY #600 Out of the Depths I Cry to You



1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me call - ing.  
2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with fa - vor.  
3 In you a - lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own mer - it.  
4 My soul is wait - ing for you, Lord, as one who longs for morn - ing;



In - cline your ear to my dis - tress in spite of my re - bel - ling.  
All our good works are done in vain with - out our Lord and Sav - ior.  
We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Ho - ly Spir - it.  
no watch - er waits with great - er hope than I for your re - turn - ing.



Do not re - gard my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace  
We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from  
Your prom - ise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross,  
I hope as Is - rael in the Lord, who sends re - demp -



my spir - it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.  
the grip of death; our lives are in your keep - ing.  
your sig - na - ture, in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.  
tion through the Word. Praise God for grace and mer - cy!

## **APOSTLES' CREED** *(please stand as you are able)*

With the whole church, let us confess our Christian faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *(please be seated)*

### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **OUR LIFE TOGETHER**

### **OFFERING**

*You may place your offering in the plates as you come forward for communion.*

### **OFFERTORY**

*All My Hope on God Is Founded*

Cantors

### **OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *(please stand as you are able)*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;



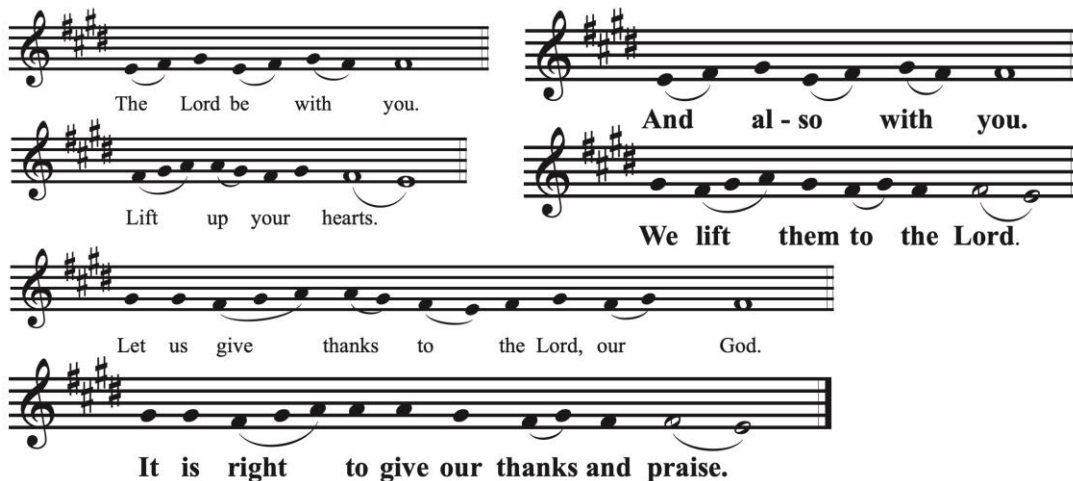
Praise God a-bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

*(From the Northern Illinois Synod Creation Care Committee)*

Let us pray. Sovereign of the universe, you set the parameters of the sea and renew the earth with light from the ages and rain from the heavens. Receive the gifts we bring as we care for oceans, lakes, and all habitats, to the glory of God in the name of Christ our peace. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

And al - so with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. It consists of two columns of music. The left column contains three staves of music with lyrics: 'The Lord be with you.', 'Lift up your hearts.', and 'Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.'. The right column contains two staves of music with lyrics: 'And al - so with you.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The final line of music, 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.', spans across both columns.

## PROPER PREFACE

## SANCTUS

Organ Ho - - - ly, ho - - - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high-est. Organ Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song: The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song: The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song: The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again: The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

Amen, and amen. **Amen, and amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

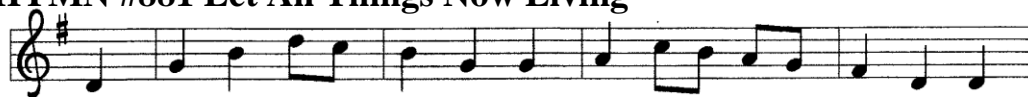
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.** *(please be seated)*

## **COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS & DISTRIBUTION**



# HYMN #881 Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We invite you to remain seated through the voluntary; however, if you choose to depart, we kindly ask you to do so in silence.*

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY** *Toccata in G Major*

Dubois

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**Cantors:** Naomi Castro and Dylan Buntun

## **Season of Creation**

### **Sunday Worship Themes:**

July 30 – Resurrection and Renewal

### **Saturday Engagement Opportunities:**

July 29 – Riverside litter clean up at 9am. Meet at Campbell Community Center. Gloves and bags provided. If you have litter collection sticks, please bring them along.

## **Blood Drive**

Central Lutheran is hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, August 22nd, from 10am-3pm in the Parish Hall. To sign up please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: [centrallutheraneugene](http://centrallutheraneugene) or call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767.



## Upcoming in August: ELCA Study for Civic Life and Faith

The ELCA Task Force on Studies for Civic Life and Faith has released a study curriculum for use throughout our church. The task force is inviting **all of us** to join a conversation about religious liberty, the proper role of the church in relation to government, and many other critical topics.

Pastor Ben and Deacon Clare will be hosting this weekly study on Zoom on **Tuesdays at 7pm in August (through the first week of September).**

**Tuesday, August 1** - Session 1: “How Is God’s Invitation to Discipleship Lived Out in a Democracy?”

**Tuesday, August 8** - Session 2: “How Do Christians Address Controversial Civic Issues?”

**Tuesday, August 15** - Session 3: “What Are Lutheran Views on Civic Life?”

**Tuesday, August 22** - Session 4: “What Are the Objectives of Democracy in the United States?”

**Tuesday, August 29** - Session 5: “What’s Faith-based Living Got to Do With Civic Life?”

**Tuesday, September 5** - Session 6: “How Do We Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord in Civic Life?”

A response form after each session lets participants communicate with the task force itself on the material covered. Join us for any or all of these sessions on Zoom.

## **Central Lutheran Staff**

Pastor Laurie A Jones  
pastorlaurie@welcometocentral.org  
mobile: 206-354-6756

Pastor Ben Nickodemus  
pastorben@welcometocentral.org  
mobile: 208-290-1165

Deacon Clare Josef-Maier  
Christus House/Campus Ministry  
clare@begoodsoil.org

Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook  
Organist/Choirmaster  
aesc@welcometocentral.org

Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers  
Associate Organist/Children's Music  
lindsey.henriksen@gmail.com

Kristi Hoiland, Parish Administrator  
info@welcometocentral.org

Cindy Culpepper, Financial Manager  
cindy@welcometocentral.org

Crystal Miller, Minister to Children, Youth  
& Families for Central, United & Emmaus  
crystal@unitedlutheran.org

Thomas Stine, Video & Tech Support

## **Church Council Members**

Jean Clancey, President  
clanceyhome@pacinfo.com

Debbie Knebel, Vice President  
knebels@gmail.com

Jack Bennett, Secretary  
jbennett@uoregon.edu

Charlotte Bontrager, Treasurer  
charlotte.bontrager@gmail.com

Ron Fenchak  
rfenchak@comcast.net

Terie Gillis  
teriehansen@gmail.com

Matt Haugen  
Matthewhaugen65@gmail.com

Howard Kallinen  
hkallinen@msn.com

Jill Liedtke  
jill.liedtke@gmail.com

Todd Shorack  
shorax@gmail.com

Chuck Swenson  
chucks@apioregon.com

