**DRAFT**

**SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP**

**24st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**September 17, 2017 11:00 AM**

**CELEBRATION OF CREATION SUNDAY**

Today is Celebration or Care of Creation Sunday, part of a month-long ecumenical Season of Creation, beginning September 1 with the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and ending October 4, St. Francis Day. Today is also the Sunday before September 22, designated in the PCUSA Program Calendar as Native American Day

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Every part of this earth is sacred,*

*every shining pine needle, every sandy shore,*

*every mist in the dark woods,*

*every clearing and humming insect is holy.*

*the rocky crest, the juices of the meadow, the beasts*

*and all the people, all belong to the same family.*

*Teach your children that the earth is our mother.*

*Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.*

*The water’s murmur is the voice of our father’s father.*

*We are part of the earth, and the earth is part of us.*

*The rivers are our brothers; they quench our thirst.*

*The perfumed flowers are our sisters.*

*The air is precious.*

*For all of us share the same breath.*

*The wind that gave our grandparents breath*

*also receives their last sigh.*

*The wind gave our children the spirit of life.*

*This we know, the earth does not belong to us;*

*we belong to the earth.*

*This we know, all things are connected,*

*like the blood which unites one family.*

*All things are connected.*

*Our God is the same God,*

*whose compassion is equal for all.*

*For we did not weave the web of life;*

*we are merely a strand in it.*

*Whatever we do to the web*

*we do to ourselves.*

~ Chief Seattle

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND NEWS OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

**A CALL TO WORSHIP: SOUNDING OF THE CONCH HORN IN FOUR DIRECTIONS**

**INTROIT:** “Now I Walk in Beauty”

**CENTERING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS**

All things come from you, O God, and to you we return.

**All things emerge in your great river of life and into you we vanish again**.

This day we live not as separate streams

**but as countless currents in a single flow**

the flow of this day’s dawning

**the flow of this day’s delight**

the flow of this day’s sorrows, your flow, O God,

**in the twistings and turns of this day.**

All things are born of you, O God.

**We carry within us your light and your life.**

In the mystery of matter and deep in the cells of our souls

**are your longings for oneness.**

The oneness of the universe,

**vast and vibrating with the sound of its beginning**.

The oneness of the earth,

**greening and teeming as a single body**.

The oneness of the human soul,

**a sacred countenance in infinite form.**

Grant us your longings for oneness, O God,

**amidst life’s glorious multiplicities.**

Let us worship God together!

**\*HYMN: #21**  Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works Lacquiparle

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Friends, we are integrally connected with God, each other and all creation. Yet, we act as if we are separate, seeing others or Creation as merely the backdrop to our individual dramas and ignoring the wellbeing of others and the larger creation which directly affect our wellbeing. Let us confess our lack of presence to and willingness to care for and protect this Earth, our Home.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of Life, you called us to till and to keep, to serve and to protect, yet we have neglected our responsibilities and your Creation is suffering the consequences of our actions and inactions. We continue to live as if we are disconnected from all life and act in ways that contribute to the disruption of creation’s beauty and integrity. We have become distracted by wealth, power and personal pursuits. We have continually failed to see that our abuse of your Creation is also an abuse of our relationships with you and with each other. For this we grieve and are sorry. God, grant us forgiveness. Fill us with an irresistible love for you and all of Creation, and a desire for the balance and wellbeing of the whole Earth community. In the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE O F PARDON**

The never changing WORD of Life is that we are reconciled in God, that God creates all things and renews all things, and that God’s WORD of grace and forgiveness frees us to live in loving relationship with each other and with all creation.

Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

**RESPONSE** "You Are the God of Creation"Ruthanne Svendsen

**(**The choir will sing first and then the Congregation will sing twice)

**You are the God of Creation,**

**birthing new life within us, birthing new life within us**

**birthing new life within us, birthing new life. [**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE**

Let us share this Good News of grace and peace with one another. The peace of Christ is yours.

**And also with you.**

**A SACRED SPACE FOR CHILDREN**

As the children come forward, the congregation will sing:

“God Saw That It Was Good (tune: “Farmer in the Dell”)

**God saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**God saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**God made the sun and moon and stars,**

**And saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**God saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**God saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**God made the sky and sea and earth**

**And saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**Reflection with Children**

Children are invited to special activities during worship.

**The Children’s Recessional**

**God saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**God saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**God made the seeds and plants and trees**

**And saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**God saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**God saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**God made the fish and birds and cows**

**And saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**God saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**God saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**God made you, and God made me**

**And saw that it was good. (clap, clap)**

**READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES** Psalm 24:1-2

**READING FROM THE GOSPEL** John 8:31-32

This is the witness of the People of God

**Thanks be to God!**

**ANTHEM**

**REFLECTION**  A Declaration of Interdependence Ellie Stock

**\*HYMN** O God the Creator[#273, Presbyterian Hymnbook, please include music and words in bulletin]

**CALL TO COMMITMENT AND OFFERING**

**Invitation:**

God has bounteously shared the gifts of Life. May we return them in service to God and

all creation.

**OFFERTORY**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE [GG# 717]**

**For the life that you have given,**

**for the love in Christ made known,**

**with these fruits of time and labor,**

**with these gifts that are your own:**

**here we offer, Lord, our praises,**

**heart and mind and strength we bring;**

**give us grace to love and serve you,**

**living what we pray and sing.**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:** Earth Care Congregations Barb Bowyer

**JOYS/CONCERNS; PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD AND CHURCH** Susan Andrews

**[Including the Native American Prayer to the Four Directions]**

**\*HYMN** #713 Touch the Earth Lightly

\***SEND OUT**

We join with Earth and each other

**to bring new life to the land,**

**to restore the waters,**

**to refresh the air.**

We join with Earth and each other

**to renew the forests,**

**to care for the plants,**

**to protect the pollinators and all creatures.**

We join with Earth and each other

**to celebrate the seas,**

**to rejoice in the sunlight,**

**to sing the song of the stars.**

We join with Earth and each other

t**o recreate the human community,**

**to promote justice and peace,**

**to remember our children of the earth,**

We join with Earth and each other.

**We join together as many unique, diverse and connected expressions of one**

**loving Mystery: for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.**

**\*THE BLESSING**

This day and in the days to come

may you experience the greatness, wildness and wonder of God’s grace-filled Creation

in sun and sky

wind and water,

animal and plant,

and in the drumming

of your own heart.

Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

**WORSHIP NOTES:**

BULLETIN COVER**:** Chakana: Indigenous cross depicting Southern Cross Constellation, more universally recognized as a symbol of the wholeness and interconnectedness of all life, of all God’s creation; Earth, symbol of oneness and unity

SOUNDING OF THE CONCH HORN: Carleton Stock. The conch is used in indigenous and other traditions to announce news, to bring people together, and for religious ceremonies.

CENTERING PRAYER: Adapted from *Praying with the Earth,* J. Philip Newell

HYMNS/RESPONSE:

**“Many and Great O, God, Are Thy Works”,** known also as the Dakota hymn was written by French translator/interpreter Joseph Renville and paraphrased Sioux member Philip Frazier, based on the creation passage Jeremiah 10:12-13. The tune LACQUIPARLE, a Native American chant, means 'lake that speaks,' and is the tune sung by the Dakota Indians as they escorted their dead to their final resting place." "This song was sung by thirty-eight Dakota Indian prisoners of war as they went to the gallows at Mankato, Minnesota, on December 26, 1862, in the largest mass execution in American history." All seven verses of the hymn were later translated by Santee Sioux Presbyterian Minister and Activist Sidney Byrd, whose great grandfather escaped that execution after a commutation of his sentence by President Lincoln. It was sung at Sidney’s funeral December 6, 2016 and continues to be sung as a song of praise, victory, and trust in God’s abiding presence.

**“You Are the God of Creation”,** written by Ruthanne Svendsen, Presbyterian minister and worship and retreat leader.

**“O God Our Creator”** (The Presbyterian Hymnal, 1990), Text written by Elizabeth Haile and The Rev. Cecil Corbett. Elizabeth Haile, a story teller, has been active in the work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in a variety of capacities, many relating to work with Native Americans. Her daughter, Holly Haile Smith, is the first Native American woman ordained clergy in the PC(USA). Haile lives on the Shinnecock reservation in Southhampton, Long Island, New York. Cecil Corbett is a graduate of the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and has served as pastor for Native American congregations. He was also president of the Charles Cook Theological School in Tempe, Arizona, where many Native American students were educated and trained.

LITURGIST: Susan Andrews

REFLECTION: Ellie Stock

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Barb Bowyer

**POST WORSHIP**:

Reception: Earth Care Team

Earth Care Team Information Table—stop by!