

THEMES FOR WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

This month we move away from the long season of Pentecost to lifting themes of Creation Care. It has been a difficult summer of environmental chaos. Heatwaves, wildfires, air quality alerts, warming ocean temperatures, flooding and mudslides have all been in the news. As Christians we have an important part to play in caring for God's creation. We know the world around us is deeply impacted by our actions. When we pay attention to the natural world around us, our sense of mystery and awe are deepened. By bringing these sensibilities into worship, we hope to grow our "capacity for beauty" and our sense of creation stewardship. Wendy Farley, in her book *Beguiled by Beauty*, observed that "our capacity for beauty is born when we begin to grasp that other things – people, animals, ecosystems, works of art – have a reality that has nothing to do with us... The capacity for beauty requires that we admire the mystery of others and recognize it as sacred and deserving of protection." Join us in worship this month and reflect upon the gift of God's Creation!

September 3: Genesis 2:4b-22 Acts 17:22-28

Communion Sunday, Season of Creation 1: Forest Sunday

We celebrate the sacrament of Communion this morning in our final 9:00 a.m. summer service. The scripture texts bring us into this year's Season of Creation through our personified, companion - the Forest, who calls us into greater awareness of the interconnection of all that God has created.

September 10: Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16 Psalm 139:7-12

Church School, Season of Creation 2: Land Sunday

The program year begins this morning as we resume two Sunday morning services at 8:00 and 10:00. Church School will be meeting downstairs. As we consider the Land, we can't help but share an experience of awe, wonder and even struggle. Together we marvel that God is everywhere. There will be Fellowship Hour after each service.

September 17: Joel 1:8-10, 17-20 Romans 8:18-27

Chancel Choir, Season of Creation 3: Wilderness Sunday

We welcome back the Chancel Choir this morning. We also honor members who have been a part of our church family for 25 or more years! Our scripture texts invite us to push past the emptiness of the wilderness, for we can find hope and renewal even in unfamiliar landscapes.

September 24: Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17 Revelation 22:1-5

Family Sunday, Handbell Choir, Season of Creation 4: River Sunday

It will be wonderful to hear from our Handbell Choir this morning! We encourage families with children to worship with us on this Fourth Sunday of the month, there will be a special Children's Message just for them! The themes for worship use the image of a river flowing with the fullness of life, to encourage all of us to find joy in God's love and healing.