



SEASON OF CREATION 2023

Each year from the month of September through mid-October, the ecumenical Christian family unites for a worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. This time is known as the Season of Creation. As followers of Christ from around the globe, there is a common call to care for creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our wellbeing is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth.

This year's theme begins with the Prophet Amos crying out "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24)

And so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity. The creators of the primary resource materials were mindful of Indigenous communities that recognize the sacredness of natural elements and so live as an embodiment of an interconnected way of life. These expressions of partnership between people and the life of the Earth have much to teach the rest of the world.

So, our prayers, sermons and liturgy calls for justice not only for humans but for all creation. Justice, allied with peace, calls us to repent of our ecological sins and to change our attitudes and actions. Righteousness demands that we live in peace, not conflict with our human neighbors, and building right relationships with all of creation. 'Peace' (shalom) involves not only the absence of conflict but positive, live-giving relationships with God, ourselves, our human neighbors, and all creation.

More specifically, with input from the Social Ministry Committee, the Worship Committee crafted a worship service that is informed by the Season of Creation Resource material and the Anglican Council of Indigenous People worship resources. Elements are credited and have received restrained editing to fit our context as a predominantly white settler congregation.

We are invited to join the river of justice and peace on behalf of all Creation and to converge our individual identities, of name, family, or faith community, in this greater movement for justice, just like tributaries come together to form a mighty river. As the people of God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice.

The Prophet Isaiah proclaims "Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43: 19)



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
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