

# Worship Plan for Sunday, August 23, 2020

## Blowing the Conch Shell

### Announcements (LBW p. 57)

#### Four Directions Prayer

##### Prayer of the Four Directions And Mother Earth and Father Sky

L) Creator is the Center of Creation. The central reality of Creator's plan for the world is the central reality of our lives. As we face each of the four directions, as we kneel to Mother Earth, and as we reach to the Heavens, we will respond in prayer. Following each prayer, we will return to face the center, reminded each time that it is our Brother who is able to bring healing and salvation and who, by His Spirit, is able to renew the face of the earth.

L) First let us all face a center point. (all face center, pause)

L) The start of life's journey, the new day, is the East. It is the place of beginnings, first light, and the possibility of starting again.

L) You have sung us into existence, Let us face East (all face East, pause) and let us pray:

**C) Enable us, Creator Spirit, to be wise in our use of the resources of the earth, sharing them in justice, partaking of them in thankfulness. (all return to facing center, pause.)**

L) The South holds the warmth of summer. It is a time of innocence, of learning and growth.

L) You have sung us into existence. Let us face South (all face South, pause) and let us pray:

**C) May we walk good paths, Creator Spirit, living on this earth as sisters and brothers should, rejoicing in one another's blessings, sympathizing in one another's sorrow, and together with you renewing the face of the earth. (all return to facing center, pause)**

L) The West reminds us of the wisdom of maturity with the approaching of the sunset. It is the time of parenthood, responsibility, and good sense—the time to teach, acknowledge, and give thanks.

L) You have sung us into existence. Let us now face West (all face West, pause) and pray that the Spirit of Creator may again breathe over the waters making them pure, making them fruitful. Let us pray:

**C) We pray that we too may be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth. (All return to facing center, pause)**

L) The North holds the hard, cleansing wisdom of the time of winter and white hair; the elders breathe through the sacred pipe, the grandparents who, on life's great circle, are closest to the little children.

L) You have sung us into existence. Let us face North (all face North, pause) and let us pray:

**C) May the air we breathe be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth. (All return to facing center, pause)**

L) From Mother Earth comes all that have life. (Bend and touch Mother Earth and say):  
L) You have sung us into existence. Let us kneel and touch symbolically Mother Earth and let us pray:

**C) May we walk gently upon the Earth and leave our footprints softly on what we touch.**

L) (Enter and face the Congregation.) We raise our hands toward Father Sky. In love, Father Sky embraces all the Earth with his love. (Raise your hands and extend your palms toward the sky.)

L) You have sung us into existence. Let us raise our hands to Father Sky and pray:

**C) May we see the vastness of Your arms and feel Your embrace of love at all times. A Ho!**

### **Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness**

#### **Confession**

L) Creator of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of Your people, turn us from the wrong paths to live for You alone. Give us Your Spirit that we may confess our wrongs, receive Your forgiveness, and grow in Your Son, our Brother Jesus. Amen.

L) Let us confess those things we have done wrong in the presence of Creator and one another.  
Creator,

**C) Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from You and, too often, we have given ourselves into the power of wrong. We are truly sorry and humble ourselves before You. In Your compassion forgive us our wrongs, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to You, and uphold us by Your Spirit, so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, through Jesus, our Brother and Savior. Amen.**

#### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

L) Creator, rich in mercy, loved us even when we walked the wrong path and made us alive with our Brother Jesus. By Creator's love we have been saved. Our wrongs are forgiven and Creator strengthens us with power through His Spirit. Amen.

#### **Entrance Hymn *We All Are One in Mission* (ELW 576)**

[We All Are One in Mission \(Melody\).tif](#)

#### **Greeting (LBW p. 57)**

The grace of our Brother Jesus, the love of Pahtamawaas, and the Unity found in the Great Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen**

## **Prayer of the Day (LBW p. 62)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . .

God of all creation, you reach out to call people of all nations to your kingdom. As you gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess your Son Jesus Christ as Lord.

**Amen**

## **First Lesson: Isaiah 51:1-6**

The First Lesson is from Isaiah, the fifty-first chapter.

1Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. 2Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. 3For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. 4Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. 5I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. 6Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Here ends the reading.

## **Children's Message**

*Meet Pastor Paul's friends, Gunther and Sparkles!*

## **Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

13Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon (LBW p. 63)**

All right, folks! So, Friends day, a day that we typically celebrate friends old and new, in order that we might see a fuller image of God. Just like how Peter saw a fuller image of God in Jesus. While they’re [the disciples] discussing who the Son of Man is, who Jesus is, Peter, inspired by God, declares him to be the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. And Jesus points out that this isn’t him revealing it, it’s not flesh and blood but it is God Godself, it is the Creator who has revealed this to Peter.

See, all the other disciples had been talking about Jesus, saying “well, he’s one of the prophets! One of the important figures in our faith tradition, to be sure.” Peter takes it one step further and says “No, you are The Prophet. You are the Messiah, Son of the Living God, the Chosen One, the Anointed One, who is going to save us all. What an amazing revelation to have, to profess, to celebrate! And it seems interesting that that Jesus uplifts this, says “Yes! You are absolutely right, you get it! On you the church is going to be built. Now don’t tell anyone about this.”

Interesting, isn’t it? But it shows for us as the church just how interesting and invigorating God’s presence in our lives can be, that it opens up our eyes to see new things. To see things in a new way. It reveals to us things we never would have imagined about those around us. This is something that we at Wilderness love to celebrate on Friends Day. Celebrating that fact that God has brought people of different backgrounds, people of different heritages, brought them all together despite different circumstances in order to be friends. In order to share in that communion, that community together, united through Christ. This is not revelation through flesh and blood. This is work done by the Creator—revealing God’s self to us. That we, as mentioned in the children’s sermon, might recognize a fuller image of God, created in those different from us.

Now I want to point out here, as you are probably already aware, but Peter is not perfect.

Just two weeks ago, we heard how “the rock” on which the church is to be built, walking on water begins to sink—like a rock. Kind of funny... And we also hear that in Jesus’ time of trial, that Peter is the one that denies him [Jesus] three times. Not exactly the ideal candidate... and yet this is who the church is built on. And finally, we’re going to see very shortly after this moment where Jesus uplifts Peter, calls him “you won’t be Simon anymore, but Peter, because you have revealed this amazing thing!” Shortly afterwards, what does Jesus say? “Get thee behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block!” Which again, as a rock, being a stumbling block I find quite humorous.

But we see that Peter is nowhere near perfect. He gets things wrong, he screws things up. And yet God still works through him, to reveal God’s self to us. God still creates something new, reveals something amazing, through Peter’s eyes, through his words, and through his revelation. And we aren’t perfect either. I think by now that should be pretty obvious. If anyone here thinks that they’re perfect, I would ask you “why are you in church, then if you’ve got it all figured out?” But we gather together because... not because we are perfect, not because we are blameless, or we feel that we have earned the right to receive all that God gives to us... But we gather together because we are CALLED together. Because we have been called together by God. Not by human flesh and blood, buy by God and God’s call. Despite our differences, or maybe because of it, despite our shortcomings, despite obstacles that TRY to hinder us (like a pandemic going on).

We manage to gather together, finding new ways to do it, finding new things though God. All so that we can celebrate the gift—the amazing and wonderful gift—that we receive in Jesus Christ. The Messiah, The Son of God. Of a living and breathing and changing and life-altering God. We celebrate all of this together. And we celebrate the friends around us, those we’ve known for ages, and those we’re just starting to know. And through them we receive this revelation just like Peter did.

We gather together, and in brief glimpses, we see the face of God. And it humbles us, and it amazes us, and it brings us closer together. So that those differences that normally would perhaps separate us—that those cultural and those historical and economical differences—suddenly melt away. Because what really is important to us is not who we are in the human realm, but that we have been claimed by God. That we have all been adopted together into a new and better family.

So perhaps instead of Friends Day we should call this our family gathering day. Maybe instead of calling one another friends, we should call one another siblings. Because through the life, teachings, preachings, healings and death of Jesus Christ, we have been saved and given new life together. And that is truly wonderful news! Thanks be to Creator! Amen.

**Hymn of the Day (LAMB, LAMB, O LAMB!)**

**Creedal Statement (*professed by all*)**

**We believe in Creator, Father-Mother Spirit, who called the world and all that is in it, into being; who spoke the creative-forming word, and all came forth; who created women and men and set them free to live in love, in obedience to the will of supreme love, and in community with all.**

**We believe in Creator, Son and Brother, who because of love beyond our understanding, love for His creation, entered the world to share our humanity; to rejoice and to despair; to set before us the paths of life and death, and walk them with us; to be rejected and die, but finally to conquer death and bind the world to himself for all time.**

**We believe in Creator, In-Dwelling Spirit, who invites us into community, that we may, through faith and that community of oneness, experience uplifting and sustaining grace; that we may fulfill our human responsibility to reach out to our neighbor, whoever that may prove to be; that we may rejoice in constant nature of creation and the wondrous joy of life itself.**

**We believe in Creator, whose word teaches us that all things grow together, the Circle of Life; that the paths of life and death, good and evil, too often come together; that choices are not clearly defined; but that we confidently and responsibly tread the path we choose and only the true One can be our judge.**

**We believe in Creator, who is present and working in this world through all Creation.**

**A-Ho!**

**The Prayers**

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Lord our rock, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living God. Prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will arouse us to cherish this wondrous home you give us. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord. Direct the leaders of countries, legislators and magistrates, mayors and councils, to walk in your ways. Help leaders regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call us into this community, in which we, though many, are one in Christ. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead. Bring us with them to our heavenly home. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Offertory Hymn**

**May we return to Creator a portion of what we have been blessed with.**

**Offertory Hymn**

**Cain nom mau too(k) Putahmowus;**

**Cain nom moo waim uh keenjaub yay(k);**

**Cain nom moo wuh kowng kuh tay lay(k);**

**Cain nom Noh(k), Kwee sis, wak Wjih Jo(k).**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer (LBW p. 76)**

**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.**

**Blessing**

May Pahtamawaas bless you and keep you.

May Pahtamawaas shine on you and be gracious to you.

May Pahtamawaas look upon you with favor and grant you peace.

**In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit that makes us One. Amen and Amen!**

**Dismissal**

L) When we see the changes of day and night,

C) **The stars in the sky,**

L) We realize

C) **It is the work of someone more powerful than man.** (Chased by Bears-Santee Sioux)

**Sending Hymn *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (ELW 742)**

[What a Friend We Have in Jesus \(Melody\).tif](#)

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