

PROGRAM FOR EUCHARIST, CHRIST IN NATURE RETREAT

June 30th, 2007; Sponsored by the Diocesan Committee for the Environment,
Episcopal Diocese of Olympia
Saint Augustine in the Woods, Freeland, Whidbey Island.
Presider: Rev. Nigel Taber-Hamilton

Opening Acclamation:

Presider Blessed be our Creator God who makes all creation new
People *And blessed be that creation of light and life and love*

Collect:

God of all Creation, as Jesus suffered on the Cross, so your creation suffers. Guide our hearts, our minds and our hands so that we may know your will and with your help bring renewal and healing to our earth. In Christ's name we pray.

Reading:

Helped are those who love the Earth, their Mother, and who willingly suffer that she may not die; in their grief over her pain, they will weep rivers of blood, and in their joy in her lively response to love, they will converse with trees...

Helped are those who find the courage to do at least one small thing each day to help the existence of another – plant, animal, river, human being. They shall be joined by a multitude of the timid.

Helped are those who lose their fear of death; theirs is the power to envision the future in a blade of grass.

Helped are those who love and actively support the diversity of life; they shall be secure in their differentness.

Helped are those who *know*. *Alice Walker*

Psalm 33: Please read responsively:

- 1 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous; *
it is good for the just to sing praises.
- 2 Praise the LORD with the harp; *
play to him upon the psaltery and lyre.

- 3 Sing for him a new song; *
sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.
- 4 For the word of the LORD is right, *
and all his works are sure.
- 5 He loves righteousness and justice; *
the loving-kindness of the LORD fills the whole earth.
- 6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, *
by the breath of his mouth all the heavenly hosts.
- 7 He gathers up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin *
and stores up the depths of the sea.
- 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; *
let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of him.
- 9 For he spoke, and it came to pass; *
he commanded, and it stood fast.
- 10 The LORD brings the will of the nations to naught; *
he thwarts the designs of the peoples.
- 11 But the LORD'S will stands fast for ever, *
and the designs of his heart from age to age.
- 12 Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! *
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!
- 13 The LORD looks down from heaven, *
and beholds all the people in the world.
- 14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze *
on all who dwell on the earth.
- 15 He fashions all the hearts of them *
and understands all their works.
- 16 There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; *
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.
- 17 The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; *
for all its strength it cannot save.
- 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, *
on those who wait upon his love,

- 19 To pluck their lives from death, *
and to feed them in time of famine.
- 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; *
he is our help and our shield.
- 21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, *
for in his holy Name we put our trust.
- 22 Let your loving-kindness, O LORD, be upon us, *
as we have put our trust in you.

Gospel Reading: Mark 2, 18-22

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins--and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."

Sermon

Prayers for Creation: *Please read together*

Creator God:

we know you in the stillness of every new dawn,
in the crispness of breezes cooled by night,
in the first beams of the rising sun shining through.
Bless us now and always with your clarity. We welcome you.

Creator God:

we know you in the fury of the noonday sun,
in the wall of heat pushing from an open oven,
in the quiet light of candles upon our altar.
Bless us now and always with your intensity. We welcome you.

Creator God:

we know you in the cooling power of rain,
in the tinkle of ice in a glass of lemonade,

in the refreshing plunge of bare feet into a cold river.
Bless us now and always with your calm. We welcome you.

Creator God:
we know you in the shadows cast by the setting sun,
in the joyous taste of ripe summer fruits,
in the comfort of a cool, grassy seat under a night sky.
Bless us now and always with your nurturing. We welcome you.

Creator God:
Cleanse us with your burning sun and cooling water
As the summer grows long, and we turn our faces once again towards fall,
Give us the strength to live each day in harmony with your creation.
We honor you. Blessed be.

Offertory:

Eucharist

Eucharistic Prayer 3

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout for joy:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you call a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you have Jesus to be human, to share our life,

to proclaim the coming of your reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the New Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!*

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with the ever blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Paul the patron of this Household, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer:

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In the times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.

Communion

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious God, you have given us much this day: the wheat and grapes which found our feast, the wit and will to be transform them into bread and wine, and the precious presence of your Son who transfigures and redeems all that we have broken and lost. Send us out now to care for this fragile earth, our island home. Grant us the wit and will to transform the toxic, irreverent ways we live, and the saving presence of your Son Jesus Christ who goes before us and call us into this world you love. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer

Leader: In the sun's shining disk, God's face is revealed.
All: O Father, we shield our eyes from your glory!
Leader: In the ocean's quiet depths, God's face is revealed.
All: O Mother, we are overwhelmed by your vastness!
Leader: In all things that are, God's face is revealed.
All: O Creator, our minds spin with your variety!
Leader: O Holy One, shine on us, quench our thirst, fill us with your love.
May we reflect your glory in our struggle for justice.
We come before you as your people of the light!
All: Alleluia! Amen.

Acknowledgements –

The opening and closing prayers are adapted from a service written by Christine Hoff Kraemer, the reading from Alice Walker is from "The Temple of my Familiar" (1989) Simon and Schuster, Pubs. The post-communion prayer is from "In Celebration of Creation", Saint Thomas Medina. The Lord's Prayer is taken from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer.