

Creation

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church

a community of the cross

called to confess hope in action

worshiping · serving · inviting · connecting · giving · growing

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020

5300 10th Avenue South · Minneapolis, MN 55417 · 612-825-6846 · nokomisheights.org
a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Nokomis Heights is a Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Congregation. We believe the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally, without regard to cultural or ethnic background; race; sexual orientation; gender identity; physical or mental abilities; socio-economic, marital, or family status; gender; or age. We welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, their partners and their families into full participation in the life and ministry of this congregation.

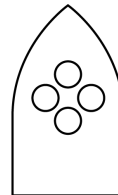
WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors	Kristen Capel, Steven Delzer
Sermon Assistant	Erika Olson
Liturgical Assistant	Marti Priest
Pianist	Julie Urban
Instrumentalists	Kim Bretheim, cello; Annika Coyle, guitar; Laurie Stegner, violin
Vocalists	Kim Bretheim, Sue Danielson Bretheim, Pastor Kristen Capel, Annika Coyle, Julie Urban, Greg Winter
Lectors	Isabelle Burmaster, Lucas Eckman, Mackinley Korchik, Presley Korchik, Michael Murphy
Children's Message	Amy Snetting

In our prayers this week: Casey Austad, Linda Austad, and Rich Gronner; Mission Partners: Trinity and St. Peder's Lutheran churches, CES (Community Emergency Service), and Wapo Bible Camp

**Join us each Sunday at 10 a.m. for worship
Find us online on Facebook and YouTube**

www.nokomisheights.org



**NOKOMIS
HEIGHTS**

Place of Worship. Space for Questions.

NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

CELEBRATION OF CREATION

AUGUST 30, 2020

10:00 A.M.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

McMichael

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: In the beginning, the Spirit over the deep;
new life daily unfolding at God’s call.

Darkness and light: Good.

Skies, lands, and seas: Good.

The earth and all that fills it—

plants and rocks, the finned, the feathered, the furry: Good.

At the last, humankind in God’s image: Very good.

Yet we have failed to draw from that goodness
in care for God’s creation.

**C: Forgive us, God, for the ways
we have exploited the earth and its creatures.**

L: We have misunderstood our calling
to be protectors of God’s creation.

**C: Forgive us, God, for the ways
we have exploited the earth and its creatures.**

L: We long for new relationships with God’s creation
that has been entrusted to us.

**C: Help us, God, to make a new community
with all that lives alongside us.**

L: May the merciful God who calls us
to tend earth and all its creatures,
deepen our knowledge of creation’s interweaving,
so that our lives are shaped in wholeness and peace
with all living things; in Jesus’ name.

C: Amen



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and
 2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
 3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
 4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor
 grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,
 throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in
 grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-
 care, praise God in col-ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:



lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: We pray together:

C: **Holy God, we thank you for the gift of life.**

We embrace our connectedness to all:

to wind, sea, and sky;

to earthworm, giraffe, and chicken;

to fish and puppy,

to cats of the jungle and in our homes.

Deepen our care for all that lives;

in the name of Jesus,

our teacher, Savior, and friend. Amen

WORD

READING

Psalm 8

L: O Lord our Lord,

C: how majestic is your name in all the earth!

L: You whose glory is chanted above the heavens
out of the mouths of infants and children;
you have set up a fortress against your enemies,
to silence the foe and avenger.

**C: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,**

L: what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?

**C: Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.**

L: You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:

C: All flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

L: the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

C: O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Hippo Song"

Hopkins

SERMON

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR FINLEY GRACE SKUGRUD

Please see baptismal insert.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Psalm 50:10-11 "For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine."

Introduction

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

A brief silence

L: God of all creation, today we bless the animals that share our homes and have our hearts. They depend on us to treat them with the same great respect you did in their making. They ask for little—sustenance, a safe place to sleep, and moments of our time—yet give back a powerful, unconditional love that is reflective of yours. When we look in their eyes, we see your love staring back. Like you, they are easy to show us forgiveness. Help us to see them as your gifts for our daily existence and provide for them as you provide for us.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of all creation, teach us to look at your world as your creatures see it. Urge us to see the communal living, where creatures who look and live completely differently, can co-exist. As children, we read books about animals that lived in the forests, woods, barns, and jungles, who helped each other and brought kindness to each other. These stories taught us tolerance, showed us kindness in action, taught us the way of prey and even death and sad grief. In these days of turbulence, let us lean back into these stories of childhood and light up the lessons for us now. Allow our hearts to fall back into that world of make believe, in ways that help us cope, survive, and thrive in these real life days of unknown future.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of all creation, bestow on our leaders the wisdom of the animal kingdom that kills only for sustenance and grazes side by side with other creatures, knowing your abundance is theirs. Teach our nations the great insights you have gifted to these beings. Bring us together like the bison and the donkey and the horned owl and the trout to share your world without hatred.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of all creation, we are grateful for the organizations that exist to take care of animals when the human world hurts them, abandons them, destroys their habitats, and kills them for trophy. Help us to be part of caring for all innocent creatures through financial support, volunteer hours, or raising awareness. Make us a part of your mercy for those beings that wholly depend on us for care.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of all creation, as we pray and bless our companion animals, also hear our prayers for those among us who are hurting in this uncertain world of unemployment and questions about safe practices for schools, churches, businesses, and individuals. Come to us in our grief when we are unable to be with

our loved ones as they surrender into your arms. Reach down to those who are lonely from the current social isolation and to those who struggle with asking for help. Hold us in your embrace of comfort and assurance. We pray for all of the people in Iowa recovering from a devastating storm, and for all people in the path of hurricanes Marco and Laura. We especially hold up for continued healing for Casey Austad, Linda Austad, and Rich Gronner. We also pray for our loved ones whom we name in the silence of our hearts at this time.

Pause for a moment of silence

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Conclusion

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

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen**

SHARING THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

"This Is My Father's World"

McMichael

OFFERING PRAYER

L: God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks for all of creation, including the animals and other creatures that have enriched our lives.

C: Amen

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

L: We have come together to give thanks to God
for all the goodness of creation
and to affirm God's blessing on the animals
who are our companions in life.

PRAYER FOR ALL ANIMALS

L: We give you thanks O God, for all creatures, great and small,
and especially for the animals in our lives.
Bless them that they may have long and joyful lives.
Keep them safe when we cannot be with them,
protect them from illness and harm,
and heal them when they are sick or hurt.
We pray also today for those animals that are suffering, lost,
deserted, frightened, or hungry.
Have pity on them and give them loving guardians
whose hearts are filled with compassion.
Make us true friends of all your creatures
so that we may share in your delight for our world.

C: Amen

AT-HOME BLESSING

“‘Finale’ from Carnival of the Animals”

Saint-Saëns

At this time, you are invited to bless your pet with these words: “Gracious God, bless (pet’s name) and all those who care for him/her. May we enjoy life together and know your peace. Amen.”

SENDING

BLESSING

L: Compassion, creativity, and joy
are ours through Christ Jesus.
May the Holy Spirit move us
to preserve and enhance life on Earth,
giving clear witness
to the life-giving purpose of our Creator.

C: Amen

Refrain

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,
 all things wise and won-der - ful, the Lord God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
 2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,
 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

Refrain

God made their glow-ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - 'ry one.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

SENDING

L: Go out into God's world. Live in peace with one another
and with all God's creatures.

C: Thanks be to God!

Moment of silence

POSTLUDE

"Let All Things Now Living"

Funderburk

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