



Creation Blessings

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church
Sunday, September 12, 2021

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
Organist	Julie Urban
Instrumentalists	Kim Bretheim, cello; Emma Lofthus, viola
Vocalists	Johan Christopherson, Carolyn Deters, Tim Wicker, Kristin Denison Young
Lector	Gregg Kelley
Children's Message	Kim Kokx
Recording/Editing	Dana Lonn, Greg Winter

In our prayers this week: Casey Austad, Linda Austad, Jerry Casterton, Rich Gronner, Jennifer Harris, Dee Levine, Charlie Olson, Blanca Raniolo's sister Nelly, and Eric and Piper Roome; Mission Partners: Trinity and St. Peder's Lutheran churches, Community Emergency Service (CES), and Wapo Bible Camp

Join us each Sunday for worship (online and in person)!

Outdoor, in-person worship on the church lawn every Sunday, at 10:00 am, weather permitting.

Adult Forum and Sidewalk Sunday School at 9:00 am.

Online worship premieres at 10:00 am every Sunday.

Find us online on Facebook and YouTube!

www.nokomisheights.org



**NOKOMIS
HEIGHTS**

Place of Worship. Space for Questions.

NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

10:00 A.M.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Hymn to Joy”

Carter

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: We enter into worship with humble hearts,
confessing before God that we are broken
and in need of God’s mercy and grace.

**C: God of justice and righteousness,
we admit that we can never live up to,
never fully live into,
and barely comprehend the kind of love
that you have for all creation.**

**As hard as we try,
we fall short of loving our neighbor as ourselves.
As much as we talk about longing for justice,
our whole lives are wrapped up in systems of injustice,
and we struggle to untangle ourselves.**

**Restore us, O God, along with your whole creation.
Where we have become numb to this unjust world,
awaken our senses, that we might be partners with you
in creating a more just and loving world for all people.**

L: The earth is filled with God’s unfailing love.
You are restored, forgiven and made new
through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Live in this promise,
knowing that love and justice are all around you,
and are yours to give and receive.

C: Amen

OPENING HYMN 677 (WOV) (st. 1-2)

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

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

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.

Refrain

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

L: Let us pray:

**C: Source and sustainer of life,
water, earth, and sky are yours,
as are all their inhabitants, wild and tame.
Thank you for creatures that nourish and serve us,
enrich, entertain, and protect us.
May we, who are made in your image, care for them well.
And may your wondrous creation thrive,
revealing to all your life-giving love,
through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen**

WORD

THE READING

Genesis 1:1—2:3

L: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let

them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

BLESSING OF THE 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

L: You are invited to bless the animals in your household, using these words:
Gracious God, bless _____ and all those who care for him/her. May they enjoy life together and know your peace. Amen

BLESSING MUSIC

“All Creatures Worship God Most High”

Krentz Organ

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Introduction

L: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: Holy God, in your kindness and generosity, you provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, especially those seeking refuge from Afghanistan. Protect any who are in danger, especially those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes and earthquakes in Louisiana, Haiti, the Northeast, and around the globe.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Give comfort to the dying and draw near those who are in times of trouble. Place your healing hand on all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially today for... *(we pray for members and friends in need of prayer)*.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Conclusion

L: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only 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

“God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

Raabe

OFFERING PRAYER

L: We pray together:

**C: Loving Creator of all,
we are grateful for this world and all its bounty.
Along with all creation, we give thanks to you
for providing all that we need for this life.
Receive the gifts we bring:
gifts of money, gifts of time,
and gifts of compassion.
Use them to restore justice
and spread love throughout the world. Amen**

SENDING

BLESSING

L: The blessing of God,
who provides for us,
feeds us,
and journeys with us,
be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen

CLOSING HYMN 881

See music on page 10.

“Let All Things Now Living”

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”

Larkin

Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
 2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.
 deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

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