

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Progressive in Approach and Christlike in Action!

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
RAINBOW SUNDAY
September 25th, 2022

"I have set my rainbow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and Earth". Gen. 9.13.

Musician: Marney Curran

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Welcome:

In this liturgy we remember our God who made a covenant with creation, with humans, all living creatures and Earth itself, never to destroy Earth and life on Earth with flood waters. The rainbow is witness to that covenant, and we too make a covenant with Earth and call on the rainbow to witness our promises.

Prelude: Gospel Came with Foreign Tongue

Prayer

Holy One, long ago Indigenous peoples used to hear the voice of the land, nurture the landscape and celebrate the spirit within all things. They knew there was an intimate bond between all kin, human and non human. But in recent years some humans have cleared the face of the land and turned the landscape into wasteland. They have treated the land as a source of wealth not wonder. The Earth is groaning in pain because of the injustice she has suffered.

We are called now to be prophets, Robin Kimmerer Wall, Greta Thunberg, and many young people to give voice to the cries of Earth.

Reading: Genesis 9: 8-17

God then said to Noah and his family, "I hereby establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you—birds, cattle, and the earth's wildlife—everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I hereby establish my covenant with you: All flesh will never again be swept away by the waters of the flood; never again will a flood destroy all the earth." God said, "Here is the sign of the covenant between me and you and every living creature for ageless generations: I set my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, my bow will appear in the clouds. Then I will remember the covenant that is between me and you and every kind of living creature, and never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all flesh. Whenever my bow appears in the clouds I will see it, and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature on the earth."* God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all living things on the earth."

The Inclusive Bible

Reflection: Rainbows: The Burden and Gift of Unbearable Wholeness

Song

Red is the fire of God's holy presence
Filling with life the planet we share;
Here is our vow to hold the Earth sacred,
Tend it with love and covenant care

Yellow, like gold, means all things are precious,
Each with a right to sing and be free;
This is our pledge to hold all that's living,
Valued as part of Earth's majesty

Green pulses flow through veins of creation,
Till humans clear great forests in seed;
This is our promise: keep all things growing,
We will reverse our violent greed.

Violet announces Christ in our cosmos,
Holding our Earth in all of its pain.
Christ now invites us: join in my mission!
Cov'nant with me to heal Earth again.

The Rainbow Covenant

1. We promise to respect and protect Earth as a sanctuary filled with the vibrant presence of the Creator, the cosmic presence of Christ and the life-giving presence of the Spirit.

2. We promise to activate our primal mission to be partners with Earth who nurture and preserve Earth (Gen. 2.15) in ways that will facilitate the healing of Earth in the current environmental crisis.

3. We promise to respect the integrity of creation and protect the rights of all life on this planet as well as the various domains of Earth who are partners in our covenant with creation.

4. We promise to find ways to reverse the current destructive practices of polluting Earth's atmosphere, felling Earth's forests and violating Earth's waters.

5. We promise to listen to the groaning of creation and the cries of injustice rising from Earth and, as the prophets of old, proclaim publicly, on Earth's behalf, the wrongs humans have done to Earth.

6. We promise to prepare for the impending disasters in the lives of humans and their fellow Earth beings resulting from climate change.

7. We promise to explore with the cosmic Christ how the Gospel is good news for healing creation (Mark 16.15) in the current ecological crisis.

Blessing

May the rainbow remind you of your promises
and the meanings behind those promises:
red for the fire of God's holy presence,
orange for the clay we share with our partner Earth,
yellow, like gold, for the great of worth of all that is,
blue for the groaning and cries deep in creation,
indigo for the dangers our environment faces,
green for restoration, healing, to live in harmony with our Mother Earth.
and violet for the healing presence of our cosmic Christ.

Go in peace!
Serving Christ and loving Earth!

Postlude: Sweetgrass and Candles

We celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21.

May the rainbow help us remember that all peoples and all creation are part of the covenant of renewal.

May we listen deeply to the wisdom of Indigenous Peoples and be guided by their love and commitment to creation.

OFFERINGS:

There are several ways to ensure that we are able to continue meeting our commitments.

You can mail in your offerings:

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1035 Wayne Drive
Newmarket, On. L3Y 2W9

You can sign up to our Preauthorized Remittance Program PAR

contact our Treasurer Sharon Smyth who will guide you

You can go to Holy Cross' **CanadaHelps** page to donate just follow the link:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/36983>

E-transfer

You can now transfer funds via email to:

holy.cross.donations@rogers.com