

Augustana Lutheran Church of Hyde Park and Lutheran Campus Ministry

September 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation Online Service

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) will be spending the next few weeks celebrating the Season of Creation along with our full Communion partners: the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church of Canada, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

Canada. Full communion means that our congregations can share the sacraments and exchange clergy with one another.

Augustana is worshiping in-person every Sunday morning at 9:30. This will continue as long as Chicago remains in Phase Four of Illinois' reopening plan.

If you would prefer to worship online, you can find the link to our YouTube worship channel <u>on our website</u>. The video is available when in-person services begin, at 9:30am on Sunday mornings

Opening Hymn: Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices



The Prayer of the Day

Creator of all, stir in us the passion to share the living water of the gospel as we also protect and share the waters of your creation to nourish all creatures. **Amen**.

Readings of the Day

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.



The Canticle of the Young Men

All you works of the Lord, | bless the Lord. **R**You angels of the Lord, | bless the Lord;
you heavens, | bless the Lord;
all you powers of the Lord, | bless the Lord. **R**

You sun and moon, | bless the Lord; you stars of heaven, | bless the Lord; you rain and dew, | bless the Lord. R

You winds of God, | bless the Lord; you fire and heat, | bless the Lord; you winter and summer, | bless the Lord. **R**

You dews and falling snow, | bless the Lord; you frost and cold, | bless the Lord; you ice and snow, | bless the Lord. R

You nights and days, | bless the Lord; you light and darkness, | bless the Lord; you lightnings and clouds, | bless the Lord. **R**

Let the earth | bless the Lord; you mountains and hills, | bless the Lord; all you green things that grow on the earth, | bless the Lord. R

You wells and springs, | bless the Lord; you seas and rivers, | bless the Lord; you whales and all that swim in the waters, | bless the Lord. **R** All you birds of the air, | bless the Lord; all you wild animals and cattle, | bless the Lord; all you children of mortals, | bless the Lord. R

You people of God, | bless the Lord; you priests of the Lord, | bless the Lord; you servants of the Lord, | bless the Lord. **R**

You spirits and souls of the righteous, | bless the Lord; you holy and humble in heart, | bless the Lord; let us bless the Father and the Son and the | Holy Spirit. R

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian

accord.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but

much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will Ι tell you by what authority Ι am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Hymn of the Day: Now the Green Blade Rises (ELW #379)



In Our Prayers

Friends and family of Bob Goede, father of Pastor Nancy Goede, died Friends and family of Paul Bruss, cousin of David Glover, died Thanksgiving for Frank Showers, officially declared cancer-free Floyd Rueger, friend of Padraig McGuire & Nancy Goede, diagnosed with colon cancer

Heva, the 9 year old daughter of the Syrian family that is being hosted by the HP Refugee Project, diagnosed with a brain tumor

Caleb Tompsett, grandson of Bill and Chris, undergoing chemotherapy

David Mueller, friend of Judy Merritt-Morgan, diagnosed with bone cancer

Allison, friend of Richard Krull, diagnosed with ovarian cancer

Mark van Scharrel, husband of Pastor Julie Ryan, advanced cancer

Shelley Barnard, upon news that her cancer is progressing

Anu, Smitha Gunthoti's cousin, late-stage cancer

Kathy, friend of Robin Mitchell, hospitalized due to mental illness

Zoe Johnson, great-niece of JoRachel Pierce, upcoming surgery

Carol Hollar, friend of Pat Chromy, hospitalized with a severe infection

Dale, cousin of David Glover, battling a possibly fatal infection

Fred Nielsen, brother-in-law of JoRachel Pierce, ongoing health concerns

The homeless and those who are food insecure

Victims and survivors of domestic abuse

Those who struggle with substance abuse

Those who are in danger of fire or have lost their homes in the Western states, especially Dorothy and Wilbur Hines, Nicole Gray, Joan Tompsett, Michelle Meller, Hans Jacobsen

Health care providers in our congregation: Peter Pytel, Elaine Worcester, Steph Stuhlmuller, and Norma Rolfsen

Other health care workers and researchers beloved by members of our community: Jefree Schulte, Deb Burnet, Kimi, Jenny, Ashley, Thomas, and Kevin Rist.

Please do not hesitate to <u>email the office</u> with any prayer requests that you would like included next week. Alternately, you can attend the Zoom prayer meeting at 2:00 on Saturday afternoon to lift up your prayers there.

Please share the peace and make an offering

Did you know that sharing the peace is meant to reconcile us before we share the Holy Supper? We can't do that in person right now, but we can the rest of the week. Please take time soon to call or email someone. It helps build community and keeps us

At the end of worship, please remember to make an offering. The people we employ depend on your generosity during this difficult time. You can arrange an <u>ongoing electronic offering through our website</u>. Setting up a free <u>PayPal</u> account allows you to make an offering of any size with a debit or credit card; the email address you need is treasurer@augustanahydepark.org. You can, of course, also send a check to Augustana, 5500 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL, 60637.

St. Francis' Day

Due to the coronavirus, we will not be able to bring pets into our sanctuary this year, but that shouldn't prevent us from still celebrating them! If you have a non-human that is close to your heart, whether it be a pet, a stuffed animal, a favorite animal at a zoo or farm, or the rabbit that has made himself at home in your back yard, please film yourself blessing that creature for our virtual service. You can email your video office@augustanahydepark.org

In addition to these videos, we'd also love to receive scanned photographs of your favorite non-humans, whether living or dead. Just email them to office@augustanahydepark.org

But St. Francis Day is coming up soon! We will need these photographs or videos by Wednesday, September 30th, in order to include them in our compilation. Please get them in soon!



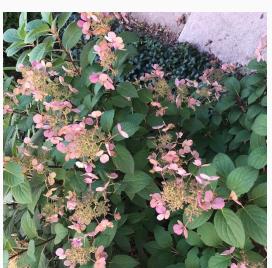
Meet our New Intern!

Hello, everybody! My name is Connor Freeman, and I'll be working as an intern at Augustana and the Lutheran Campus Ministry from now until June. I am a second-year Master of Divinity student at UChicago, and I'm in my third year of candidacy — which means I'm in training to become a Lutheran pastor. Originally hailing from Decorah, Iowa, I moved with my wife (Caroline Freeman) from Vermont to Hyde Park last September, where we immediately found a home in Augustana and the campus ministry. Over the next nine months, you might see me around in the pulpit, in the pews, at church meetings, in the office, in classrooms, on Zoom, walking my new dog Gimli, or just milling around in the common room. Please do say hello, reach out, and be patient with me as I struggle with why God chooses to do things like call me to the ministry but also make me bad at learning names. Peace and good health to you all!

While we all miss the beautiful interior of our beloved church, we can still enjoy nature's extravagant beautification of the exterior.











Farewell hymn sing for Carolyn Ulrich

Carolyn Ulrich, long-time member of Augustana's choir, is moving to South Carolina to be closer to her daughter. This Sunday, after our inperson service, the choir will join up in Augustana's parking lot and walk over to Carolyn's beautiful garden to sing to her. All members are welcome to join in, however, regardless of musical ability. Just

plan on being in the parking lot by 10:30 this coming Sunday to say goodbye to our friend.