

**Home Worship September 12, 2021**  
*Wesley United and St James*

***Creation 1: Wisdom From Our Home Planet***

**Welcome**

We acknowledge that the lands on which we live and worship are the unceded territories of the Passamaquoddy people. We seek to live with respect on the land, and in peace and friendship with its peoples.



**Lighting the Candle**

**Light of Life, your presence is known in the celestial bodies that orbit our home planet. We dwell in the radiance of your love everyday and make a place for you in this gathering through the small but significant warmth and comfort offered by this flame.**

**Music:**

MV 41 "O Beautiful Gaia"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOvVuT3PbC0>

**Gathering Words**

Listen! Hear!

**The music of the spheres, without words, sings to our hearts of Creation's glory.**

Look! Notice!

**The myriad of mysteries of space, systems of complexity, ablaze with wisdom.**

Laugh! Respond!

**The intricate weaving of life's rhythms, the pulse of creation, dances with joy and eternal love.**

Come! Share!

**We are in community with all of creation. Here we find our home.**

## **Centering Prayer**

O Holy One, as we gather in this sacred space,  
We pause in reverence  
Of the intelligence of creation,  
Of the interdependence of all things  
Of the inner holiness animating us.  
Spirit be in our hearts and flow throughout the natural world,  
That we may all be one community,  
on our one home planet. Amen.

## **Music:**

VU 232      “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkXjCoUOWyA>

## **Theme Conversation**    “The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFQZfeHq9wo>

## **Readings**

### **Proverbs 1:20–33**

#### **The Call of Wisdom**

**20** Wisdom calls aloud [a]outside; She raises her voice in the open squares.

**21** She cries out in the [b]chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city  
She speaks her words:

**22** “How long, you [c]simple ones, will you love [d]simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning,  
And fools hate knowledge.

**23** Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.

**24** Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,

**25** Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke,

**26** I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes,

**27** When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind,  
When distress and anguish come upon you.

**28** “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;  
They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.

**29** Because they hated knowledge  
And did not choose the fear of the Lord,

**30** They would have none of my counsel  
And despised my every rebuke.

**31** Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way,  
And be filled to the full with their own fancies.

**32** For the [e]turning away of the simple will slay them,  
And the complacency of fools will destroy them;

**33** But whoever listens to me will dwell safely,  
And will be [f]secure, without fear of evil.”

## **Psalm 19**

1. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.
2. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.
3. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.
4. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,
5. Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.
6. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.
7. The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
8. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.
9. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
10. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
11. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.
12. Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.
13. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.
14. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

## **“To My Favorite Tree”**

by Alydia Smith

Why do you remain so good to me...  
singing me sweet songs of wind and leaves  
cleaning my soul with your purity and beauty

Why do you remain so good to me...  
when I am so bad to you?

I have taken away your loved ones:  
you were once part of a great forest,  
now you are barely in a thicket.

I have taken away your sun and moon light, your rhythm:  
the seasons and routines your ancestors flourished in  
are now foreign and extreme, unpredictable and harsh.

I have taken away your splendor and sacrifice:  
turning your dignity and pride into cheap decorations,  
your priceless flesh into wrapping paper.

I have abused you.  
And yet still in your majesty you provide me,  
love in your shelter,  
hope in your shade, and  
life in your fruits.

I am a prodigal child:  
brash, wasteful and arrogant.  
You are a loving parent:  
patient, generous and wise.

I am begging you to accept me and my contrite thoughts  
despite what I have done to you.

You respond with a playful kiss, leaving fragrant pines in my hair.

Humbled, grateful, and awestruck, I can only smile as I wonder:

Why do you remain so good to me?

## **Music**

MV 10 "Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom"  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A\\_8iQmLXzag](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_8iQmLXzag)

## **Reflection**

I hope you enjoyed the hymn "O Beautiful Gaia" that will be a sort of theme song for the Season of Creation as we sing it each week until Thanksgiving.

Gaia is the ancient Greek God who personifies the earth. It is a name many use to describe the Divine Feminine within creation. She is Mother Earth but so much more than just the conductor of seasons and the grower of gardens, she is the mystery and holiness of all living things upon our planet. Gaia is the consciousness of the world.

In Proverbs, Wisdom is personified as a woman, present at and involved in creation. Wisdom is therefore often identified by the name Sophia. The purpose of this feminine entity in the scriptures differs amongst scholars, as some theologians believe Wisdom is simply a literary device, while others say she represents the Holy Spirit, or possibly even the pre-incarnate Christ. Is Sophia and the Word (from John's gospel) present in the beginning one in the same? No matter which view we take, Wisdom is clearly from God, and accessed both through study of nature and scripture (as described in the Psalm as God's world and Word).

In many ways, Gaia is not all that different from Sophia. Both are seen as feminine and giving birth to creation. They offer balance and harmony in our personification of God, including all traits and gender characteristics. There is a warmth, nurturing and radical welcome present in the image of Gaia cradling our sick, distraught and rebellious planet in her bosom.

In verse 5, the Psalmist says that God set the sun and its celestial siblings within an atmospheric dome or tent. God has created a home for us all, a protective barrier under which all living things dwell here on earth. Though we are sheltered from the vastness of the universe, we have not managed to defend the world from the actions of humanity.

Sophia tells us to love, respect and listen to the world around us but all too often we ignore the well-being of our planet in favor of convenience and "progress" for ourselves. Proverbs seems to be issuing a warning for us

Proverbs clearly outlines how natural disasters will be the consequence of ignoring Sophia. How is climate change effecting your life? How do you listen to the wisdom of Gaia/Sophia? What actions are you willing to make to preserve this home in which we have been gifted?

## **Offering Invitation**

We give as we are able for the glory of Creation and the work of the church.

## **Offering Prayer**

Generous and loving Source of Life,

We give thanks for the wonder and wisdom of creation.

May we always treat creation with reverence and gentleness.

We offer our talents and gifts to you to care for all the earth and its inhabitants. Amen.

## **The Community at Prayer** “Walking with Wisdom” By Bruce Sanguin

O Holy One,

We come in humility and awe, waiting on Wisdom, Holy Sophia to reveal to us Her way.

She, incarnate in Jesus, embodied in cells and centipedes,

woos us with a wink into an unknown and unknowable future:

except that it shall be delightful, for She is delighted by creation;

and it shall be beautiful, for beauty is the path She walks;

and it shall be good, for She is the irrepressible goodness of creation;

and it shall be just, for She is outraged by oppression, of all Her children,  
human and other-than-human.

O Holy One, we turn now from our foolish ways

to walk the path of Wisdom—lightly, lovingly—upon and as this beautiful green planet. Amen.

## **Lord’s Prayer**

### **Music**

VU 229

“God of the Sparrow”

## **Words of Going Forth and Blessing**

**\*Worship resource:** *Season of Creation 2021 Celebration Guide: “A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God”* (www.seasonofcreation.org), *Gathering Magazine* Pentecost 1 & 2, 2021, “*If Darwin Prayed: Prayers for Evolutionary Mystics*” by Bruce Sanguin, 2010.

## **Announcements**

**Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup>** - No worship for St. James  
- Barb Sheen leading worship at Wesley  
(*Natasha is off but a Home worship service will be provided.*)

**Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup>** - Wesley and St. James joint worship and picnic at 11:00  
(*Sharon Hannan’s home 921 Rte745, Oak Hill and the rain location is the Oak Hill Hall.  
Please bring chairs, dishes and some food to share!*)

**Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup>** – Orange Shirt Day / National Day for Truth and Reconciliation  
(*Wear orange to remember and honour the children who attended Residential Schools.*)