

# Third Sunday in the Season of Creation

## Hope for God's Creation

September 25<sup>th</sup> 2022  
Portage Lake United Church  
Proper 21 (26)



Lectionary Year C  
*Liturgical Color: Green*

# Welcome and Announcements

*We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

- Cooperative Campus Ministries is once again putting on a progressive dinner for MTU Students. On Sunday September 25th, students will gather at St. Al's for appetizers, walk to Canterbury House for salad, then walk here where we will be hosting and providing the main course: chili; finally, the students will walk to Good Shepherd for dessert. We need volunteers to make chili (some with meat and some meatless), set-up and clean-up. See Lois for more details.

## ***Serving This Morning***

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Reader: Jim Northey

Prayer Writer: Lois Jambekar

Musician: Susie Byykkonen

Greeters and Coffee: Liz & Harold Evensen



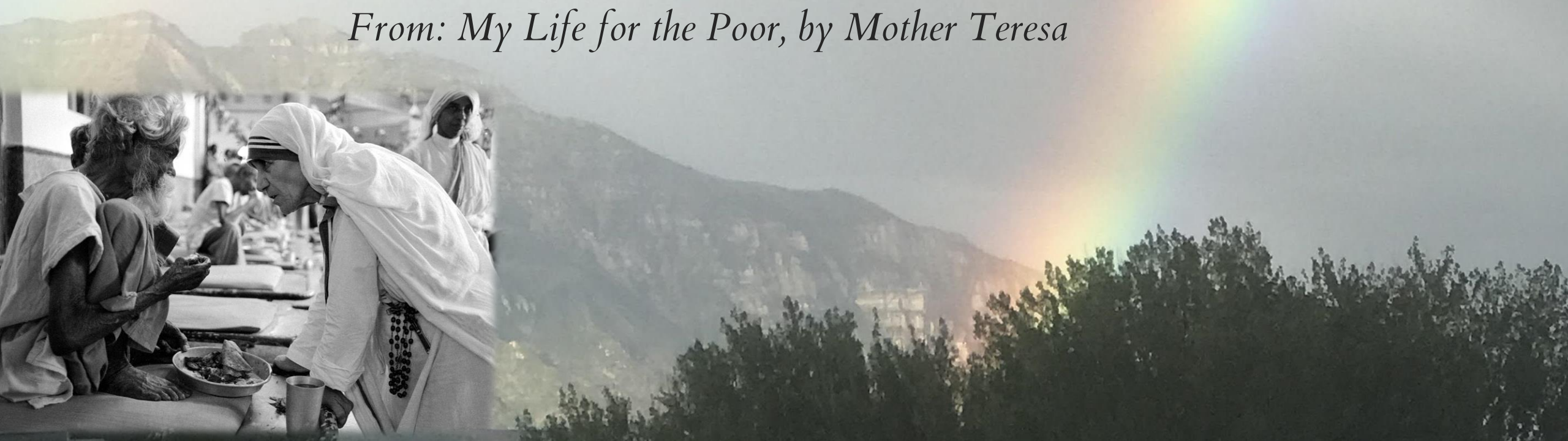
***Are there any other announcements?***

*A reminder for those at home to **mute your microphones** during the non-interactive portions of the service*

# PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

I always explain to the sisters,” It is Christ you tend in the poor. It is his wounds you bathe, his sores you clean, his limbs you bandage.

*From: My Life for the Poor, by Mother Teresa*



**GATHERING:** THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

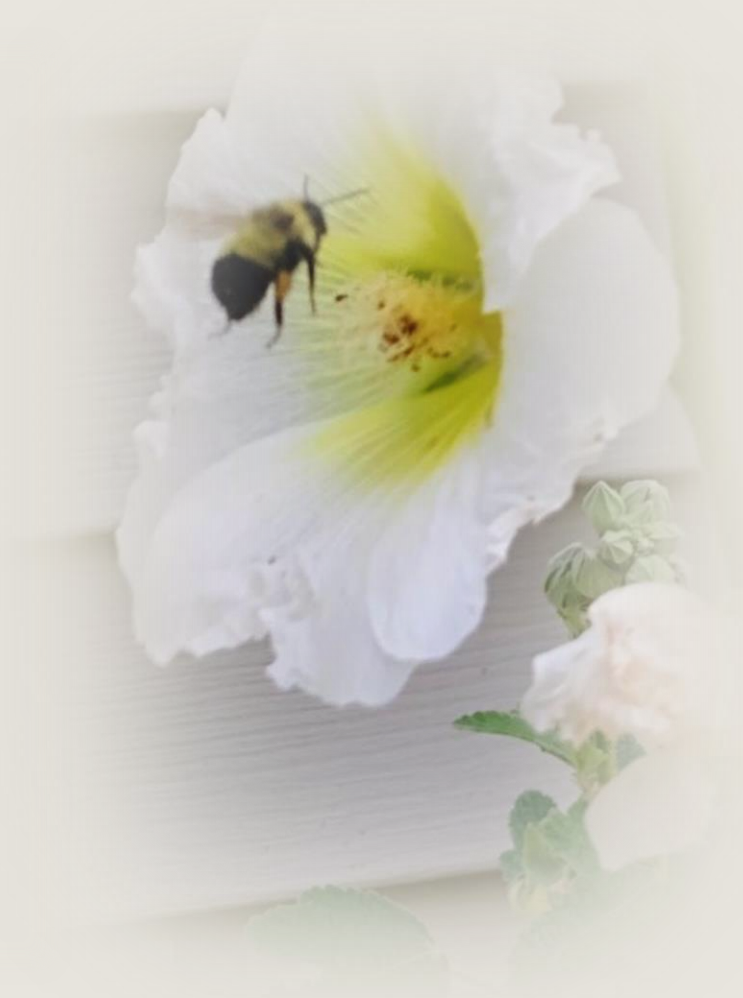
## ✝ Call to Worship (responsive)

This is the Day, / **This is the Day,**  
That the Lord has made, / **That the Lord has made,**  
We will rejoice, / **We will rejoice,**  
and be glad in it! / **and be glad in it!**

(unison)

**This is the day that the Lord has made,  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day that the Lord has made.**

This is the *world*...



# + Sung Call to Worship

84

## This Is the Day

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.  
St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison

The musical score is written for unison voice and piano accompaniment. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 2/2. The lyrics are: "1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joyce and be glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made." Chord markings above the vocal line include Eb, Bb7, Eb, Ab, Eb, Ab, Eb, Eb/Bb, Bb7, and Eb.

The first stanza of this hymn was written by Leslie Garrett, who was born in New Zealand and served as pastor of a church in western Australia. The other two stanzas are anonymous.

Tune: THIS IS THE DAY Irr.  
Les Garrett, 1967



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Equinox © Jan Richardson

# + PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God,  
help us to measure our time,  
in faithful generosity,  
that your will be done,  
your kingdom come,  
for life everlasting,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



*Ann Campbell*

# ✚ Gathering Hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory" # 420 BLUE

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CHURCH: MISSION

## 420 God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

John Hughes, 1907



1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Thy peo - ple  
2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn Thy Christ, as -  
3. Cure Thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, Bend our pride to  
4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that

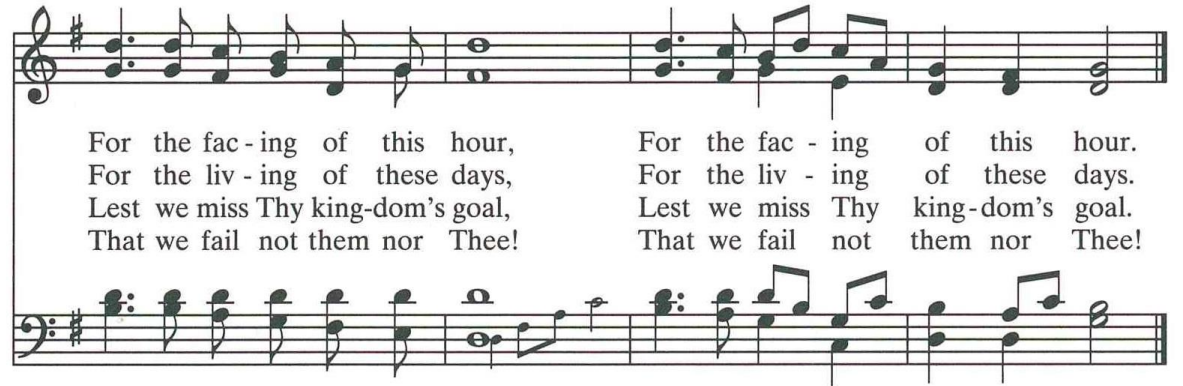


pour Thy power; Crown Thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
sail Thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
Thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
they may be Ar - mored with all Christ - like gra - ces,

CHURCH: MISSION



Bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
Pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.  
For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.  
Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal, Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal.  
That we fail not them nor Thee! That we fail not them nor Thee!

5. Save us from weak resignation  
To the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of Thy salvation  
Be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving Thee whom we adore,  
Serving Thee whom we adore.

*Text:* Used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs.

## ✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of justice and righteousness,  
you lift up the lowly and fill the empty;  
yet we adore the high and the mighty.  
You reach out to the poor;  
yet we ceaselessly pursue wealth.  
You give you abundant creation to our care,  
yet carelessly use and abuse the land we all share.  
You talk about treasure in heaven;  
yet we want dollars in our accounts right now.  
Correct our misguided ways.  
Forgive our lack of generosity.  
Free us from striving for more and more.  
Change our hearts  
so that we can tend to things that matter  
and find our life in Jesus Christ.



*The Rose – Sherry Middlemis-Brown*



# + Declaration of Forgiveness

Without regard for the cost,  
the precious love of God  
is poured out in Jesus Christ.

This is good news!  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!



Slavery Reconciliation Statue  
Richmond, VA

# + PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*We greet one another with a sign of God's peace.*

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

**By one spirit we were baptized into one body.**

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace.

**Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.**



# WORD



Lazarus at the rich man's gate by Fyodor Bronnikov, 1886.

## Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32:1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar.

32:2 At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, 32:3a where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

32:6 Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came to me: 32:7 Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours." 32:8 Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD. 32:9 And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. 32:10 I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. 32:11 Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy;

32:12 and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. 32:13 In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, 32:14 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time.

32:15 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

**Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God**

# 1 Timothy 6:6-19

6:6 Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; 6:7 for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; 6:8 but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. 6:9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. 6:11 But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 6:13 In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you 6:14 to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 6:15 which he will bring about at the right time--he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. 6:16 It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. 6:17 As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 6:18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, 6:19 thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

# ✦ HYMN “In the Bulb There is a Flower” GTG 250

Capo 3: (D) (Em)  
F Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)  
C7 F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)  
F7 B<sup>b</sup> Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)  
B<sup>b</sup> Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

## + GOSPEL READING Luke 16:19-31

16:19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 16:20 And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 16:21 who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. 16:22 The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. 16:23 In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. 16:24 He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' 16:25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. 16:26 Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' 16:27 He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house-- 16:28 for I have five brothers--that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' 16:29 Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' 16:30 He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 16:31 He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

**The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God**



**The Burning Bush**

— Ex 3:1-12 —

**Listen to the  
Voice of creation**  
**SEASON OF CREATION 2022**



# Offering



*Season of Creation 2022  
The Burning Bush*



To make a gift to the ministry of PLUC click [here](#).

# Offering Prayer of Dedication

God who gives life  
and richly provides us  
with everything,  
use these,  
our offerings,  
to take hold of,  
and show us,  
the life that really is. Amen.



# + Contemplating Creation

*For this week's creation contemplation, we will step outside the sanctuary, and together plant a tree, as a sign of hope in God and fruitfulness of Creation.*



# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



# PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

## *ECUMENICAL*

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.



# ✚SENDING HYMN "You shall Go out with Joy" GTG 80

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

## You Shall Go Out with Joy 80

The Trees of the Field

Em B7 Em B7 Em

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;

G C G D

the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be -

B N.C. Em B7 Em

fore you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the

B7 Em B7 Em B7 Em

trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

D7 N.C. G C G D

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;

\* X X D7 G D7 G

the trees of the field will clap their hands;

C G D

the trees of the field will clap their hands

B7 Em B7 Em

while you go out with joy.

\*Clap hands.

This text paraphrases Isaiah 55:12, which is generally understood to describe a "second exodus," this time from Babylon rather than from Egypt. This release of God's people and their return to their own land gives rise to a joyful celebration involving all creation.

TEXT: Steffi Geiser Rubin, 1975  
 MUSIC: Stuart Dauermann, 1975  
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THE TREES OF THE FIELD  
 Irregular

**SENDING** *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## CHARGE AND BLESSING

Fight the good fight of faith,  
take hold of the eternal life  
to which you were called,  
take hold of the life that really is.

Leave in jubilee,  
knowing, somewhere,  
in an earthen jar,  
is the deed to the land of the Lord,  
a land of houses and fields and vineyards,  
a land of redemption,  
a land that shall be bought again.



# Postlude and Reflection

Like the prophet Amos, Jesus has harsh words for those who live in luxury and ignore the needs of the poor. The epistle reading warns that “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Tim. 6:10).

What is an appropriate  
Christian attitude toward wealth?

How is our attitude toward wealth related to our  
calling to care for God’s creation?

How are we called to treat those who are poor?



*Sherry Middlemis-Brown*



## Thanks to

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland  
Reader: Jim Northey  
Prayer Writer: Lois Jambekar  
Musician: Susie Bykkonen  
Greeters and Coffee: Liz & Harold Evensen

## Serving Next Week

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland  
Reader: Nancy Byers-Sprague  
Prayer Writer: Terry Monson  
Musician: Susie Bykkonen  
Greeter: Lois Jambekar  
Coffee: Greg Campbell

## Visio Divina

### Photos by

Ann Campbell  
Sherry Middlemis-Brown  
Jim Northey

### Cover

Picture by Ann Campbell

### Sung Call to Worship

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### WORD

Lazarus at the rich man's gate by Fyodor Bronnikov, 1886.

### SERMON

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

### OFFERING

<https://spsmw.org/2022/08/03/the-season-of-creation-2022/>

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## Portage Lake United Church

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Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.  
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.