**Creation Prayer**

**September 9, 2018**

**Church of Loretto**

*Leader and 2 readers will read from the ambo.*

GATHERING

**One: We gather in the image of the Creator**

Many: who is a community of love.

**One: We gather in the name of the Redeemer**

Many: who reconciles all of creation.

**One: We gather in the presence of the Life Giver**

Many: who inspires new life and renews it.

*Song – Canticle of the Sun*

CONFESSION

***Leader:*** **We know that “creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now”** (Romans 8:19-22).

**And so we confess: God of mercy and justice,**

Many We confess our overuse of transportation,

***One (Leader):******the need for speed overriding the healing of the earth’s fever.***

Many We confess our hyper-consumption of food and energy,

***One: producing meat and electrons on demand, but too often exhausting and poisoning the backyards of the poorest.***

Many We confess our soaps, our cosmetics, our synthetic clothes,

***One: ignoring that their unseen, plastic microbeads run into our streams and oceans, now residing in fish, and probably in some of us.***

Many We confess our junk, the piles of what we throw away,

***One: the sewage smelling of our lack of concern.***

Many We confess our mindset,

***One: too often concentrating on our ability to buy rather than asking what we really need, what our world needs.***

Many We confess our unfaithfulness, not loving you with

our whole heart and strength and mind,

***One: not loving our human and non-human neighbors as ourselves,***

Many not caring for the creation you have given us as a gift.

***One: Turn us from our cursed practices***

Many to life that is really living, giving ourselves away,

following Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen**.   
  
*(adapted from Lutheran World Federation)*

**Leader**  **The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God** *(Romans 8:26–27).*

**All: Amen**

*The leader is seated and reader 1 comes to the ambo.*

READINGS – *sung refrain: We praise you, O God*

***Reader 1 Psalm 104: 1a, 5-6, 10-15, 24, 31***

**I will bless you, Lord my God!**

**You fill the world with awe.**

**You made the earth solid,**

**fixed it for good.**

**You made the sea a cloak,**

**covering hills and all.**

**REFRAIN**

**You feed springs that feed brooks,**

**rushing down ravines,**

**water for wild beasts,**

**for wild asses to drink.**

**Birds nest nearby**

**and sing among the leaves.**

**REFRAIN**

**You drench the hills**

**with rain from high heaven.**

**You nourish the earth**

**with what you create.**

**REFRAIN**

**You make grass grow for cattle,**

**make plants grow for people,**

**food to eat from the earth**

**and wine to warm the heart,**

**oil to glisten on faces**

**and bread for bodily strength.**

**REFRAIN**

**God, how fertile your genius!**

**You shape each thing,**

**you fill the world**

**with what you do.**

**Let God’s glory endure**

**and the Lord delight in creating.** **REFRAIN**

*Reader 1 is seated and reader 2 comes to the ambo.*

***Reader 2 Job 12:7-10***

**“But ask the animals, and they will teach you;  
    the birds of the air, and they will tell you;  
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;  
    and the fish of the sea will declare to you.  
Who among all these does not know  
    that the hand of the Lord has done this?  
In his hand is the life of every living thing  
    and the breath of every human being.**

*Reader 2 is seated.*

Silence

*The leader moves to the ambo and continues:*

**Leader: We will move to our walk outside soon. You may use the meditations found in your worship guide and stop at four places: We invite you to exit the front church doors and go to your left to the Moreau Remembrance Garden. After some time there, you can then follow the road behind the Guest House next door to the Guardian Angel statue. The third stop is the lawn in front of the church under the trees. The final stop is the labyrinth on the other side of the church parking lot. You can follow this path or stroll in whatever way you would like on this beautiful campus!**

**You are invited to walk silently and slowly,**

**maintaining awareness of the sights, sounds, smells, and textures of the world around you.**

**Feel free to walk with a group or alone and to read the meditations to yourself or have someone read them aloud to you.**

**You may take the papers with you for later use or return them to the church foyer.**

**Let us pray together:**

***Creator God,***

***We thank you for the abundance of creation,***

***for the air we breathe,***

***the water we drink,***

***and the food we eat.***

***We pray that we, your children,***

***will steward this gift***

***so that all your children may share in its abundance***

***here and around the world. Amen.***

*There is no closing song. Those interested may proceed in silence out to the church grounds for a meditative walk. Tone chimes will play as the people move to the doors.*

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