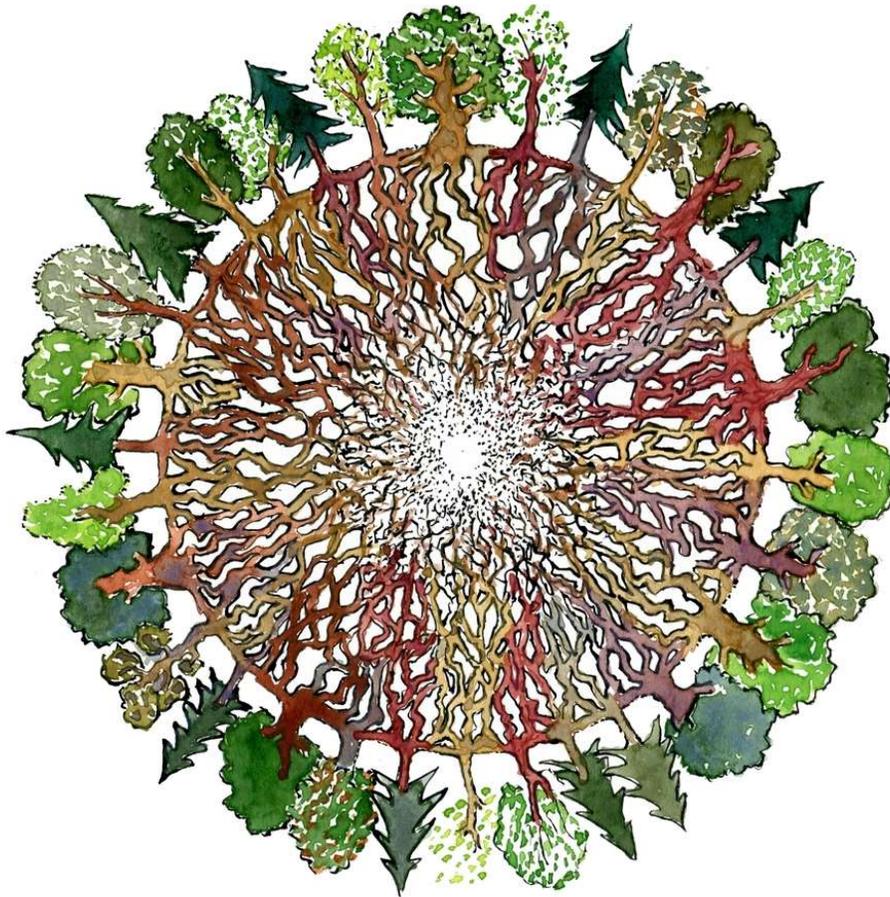


# ***Welcome to House of Prayer Lutheran Church***

***“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”***

***Isaiah 56:7b***



***Worship  
August 19, 2018***

***++ Please be sure cell phones and pagers are turned off during the worship service as they may interfere with the sound system. Thank you. ++***

### **To Our Visitors**

Welcome to worship! Whether you are Lutheran or not, if you desire to receive the body and blood of Christ, you are welcome at the Lord's table. If you have no church home in the area, we invite you to worship again with us and join in our Christian fellowship, education and service activities. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Henry at the conclusion of the service, sign our guest sheet located in the foyer and join us in the Parish Hall for coffee and fellowship following worship. The Church is handicapped accessible and hearing assistance is available. Please see an usher for a receiver. A copy of the sermon is available from the ushers.

### **Worship Schedule**

Saturday Worship Service 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Coffee Hour 10:50  
Sunday School 10:45a.m. (September – June)

### **Church Staff**

The Rev. Susan C. Henry, Pastor  
Lenae W. Badger, Minister of Music  
Kristen Croke, Church Administrator  
Barbara Hutchinson, Associate Minister of Music

### **Church Directory**

Church Offices are located in the church, 916 Main Street  
Office hours are Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., 9:00 am –1:00 pm. (office is closed on Tuesday)  
Telephone (781)749-5533 - FAX (781)740-2649  
Office email: hopchurchoffice@comcast.net  
Pastor Henry's email: hoppastorhenry@gmail.com  
Web Site: houseofprayerhingham.org  
Newsletter submissions: hoptidingseditor@comcast.net



### **HOUSE OF PRAYER MISSION STATEMENT**

*To share and spread Christ's message of love*  
*To nurture a vigorous and compassionate church family, open to all*  
*To provide meaningful worship and Christian education*  
*And to actively reach out to help and serve others*

**House of Prayer Lutheran Church**

**Sunday 9:30 a.m.**

(\* Indicates Congregation Standing)

**Congregation parts are in bold**

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

♪ *Your quiet reverence is appreciated as we use the prelude to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.* ♪

Prelude                      Improvisation on “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Welcome

\* Call to Worship

Wild yeasts and cultivated ones,  
Praise the Lord!

**Brewers and bakers,  
Praise the Lord!**

Button mushrooms and portabellas,  
Praise the Lord!

**Chefs and all cooks,  
Praise the Lord!**

Lactobacillus and probiotics,  
Praise the Lord!

**Let life in us and on us  
Praise the Lord!**

**Let all creation praise the Lord!**

\* Gathering Song                      “**God of the Sparrow**” verses 1, 2, 4, 6                      (740, adapted)

1. **God of the sparrow God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe  
How does the creature say Praise**

4. **God of the microbe God of the krill  
God of the wood wide web  
How does the creature say Care  
How does the creature say Life**

2. **God of the earthquake God of the storm  
God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature say Woe  
How does the creature say Save**

6. **God of the ages God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home**

\* Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

\* Prayer of the Day

**Gracious God, Creator of Life, teach us to cherish everything that you have made and all that you continue to create. The vastness of space beyond us, the beauty of the earth around us, and the mystery of the unseen life under our feet and within us fill us with awe. Help us recognize the interdependence of all created life so that we honor, protect, and care for your creation. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture, story, and song.*

The First Reading

Psalm 139:13-14

<sup>13</sup>For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
<sup>14</sup>I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Congregational Response: Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

The Zoo in You

The “zoo” in you occupies every waking and sleeping moment. Direct descendants of cells that came into being approximately 45 million years ago remain active in our bloodstreams just as the ions in our blood still betray their salty brine origins. And a full 10 percent of our dry body weight is other-than-human creatures, mostly microbes feeding in, on, and with us. Microbe cells outnumber the distinctively human cells 10:1. So of the quadrillion cells of our bodies, almost 90 percent are not human but tiny self-propagating organisms that have their own lives as they live in us as part of who we are. We have an inner ecosystem in which each of us is home to something like 100 trillion microbes.<sup>1</sup> No fewer than 400 different species of microbes, for example, live in your mouth alone (not 400 microbes, 400 species of microbes).<sup>2</sup> And you should see your gut! Every digestive system is really a host kitchen with an adjoining dining nook.<sup>3</sup>

Without such microorganisms we would perish within hours. The body's processes would shut down and we would die, essentially from microbe laziness or, more precisely, a successful strike, since each human body has roughly 400 billion molecules that conduct “millions of processes between trillions of atoms” unceasingly. “The total cellular activity in one human body is staggering . . . One septillion<sup>4</sup> actions [take place] at any one moment. . . . In a millisecond, our body has undergone ten times more processes than there are stars in the universe, which is exactly what Charles Darwin foretold when he said science would discover that each living creation was a ‘little universe, formed of a host of self-propagating organisms, inconceivably minute and as numerous as the stars of heaven.’”<sup>5</sup> In a word, we are alive only because of the kindness of countless strangers within us.

<sup>1</sup> Carl Zimmer, “Our Microbiomes, Ourselves,” *New York Times*, Sunday Review, December 4, 2011, 12.

<sup>2</sup> There may be as many as 150 million species of microbes on the planet, while there are only about 5,400 species of mammals. They can exist under conditions that would kill most higher forms of life, including humans, and are clearly the vast majority of organisms on Earth. “Scientists Start a Genomic Catalog of Earth's Abundant Microbes,” *New York Times*, December 29, 2009, D3.

<sup>3</sup> William Bryant Logan, *Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth*, New York: W. W. Norton, 1955, 55.

<sup>4</sup> A million billion billion, or 10 with 24 zeros.

<sup>5</sup> Citation from Paul Hawken, “Commencement Address to the Class of 2009,” University of Portland, May 3, 2009. Address online at [paulhawken.com/paulhawken\\_framset.html](http://paulhawken.com/paulhawken_framset.html).

Response

“The Covenant with Earth” verse 1, Tune: The Lord's My Shepherd

...Habel

**1. We hear the call of planet Earth  
To come back home and see  
The living presence of our God  
In soil and sky and sea,  
The living presence of our God  
In soil and sky and sea.**

<sup>1</sup>It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
<sup>2</sup>to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night,  
<sup>3</sup>to the music of the lute and the harp,  
to the melody of the lyre.

<sup>4</sup>For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

<sup>5</sup>How great are your works, O LORD!  
Your thoughts are very deep!

*Reader:* Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

***Congregational Response: Thanks be to God.***

## Reflection

## The Wood Wide Web

## Anna Rothschild

Imagine you're walking through a forest. Everything might seem quiet...but beneath your feet is a flurry of conversation. All the plants around you are actually talking to each other. The trees and the shrubs and the flowers are passing information back and forth, with serious life and death consequences. So, how are they communicating? They're using a giant network of fungi—one so pervasive and powerful that some scientists have started comparing it to the Internet. They're calling it the "Wood Wide Web." . . .

The so-called Wood Wide Web is made up of what are called "mycorrhizal fungi." There are many different types of mycorrhizal fungi, but generally these little guys will grow on the roots of plants and provide them with water and nutrients—like nitrogen and phosphorus—in exchange for sugars. While they're incredibly thin, the threads of the fungi can be up to 1000 times the length of a tree root. This allows the fungi to connect together many different plants. Once connections are made, the fungi can act almost like the neurons in our brain, transporting signals from plant to plant. And these networks are everywhere. It's estimated that around 90% of land plants are connected to some kind of mycorrhizal network.

So, how can plants use these networks? Well, to begin with, they can help each other out in times of stress. For example, during the fall months, when paper birch trees lose their leaves and can't produce sugar, Douglas-fir trees may shuttle them nutrients through the fungal network. And in the summer, when paper birch trees have lots of leaves, they send sugars to young Douglas-fir saplings growing in their shadows.

Plants can also warn each other of danger. Douglas-fir trees connected by a fungal network can alert their ponderosa pine neighbors if they're attacked by budworms. In response, the neighboring ponderosa pine trees will produce insect-repelling chemicals—even though they haven't been directly exposed to the insects themselves.

Mycorrhizal fungi can also enable parental care of among plants. Some adult trees will help out their younger relatives by sending those seedlings more nutrients through the fungal network than they send to strangers. The adults may even make more room for them in the soil by reducing the number of their own roots.

But not everyone is so generous. Much like our internet, things can sometimes get a little nasty on the Wood Wide Web.

Take Black Walnut trees, for example. They can spread poison through the network, hindering the growth of their neighbors. And the fungi making up the network can be just as tricky. Mycorrhizal fungi tend to pick favorites. They may share resources with one species of tree, but bleed another species dry without giving anything back in return. The fungi may also judge a plant's health. If they think it's too weak or sick, they may not allow it to receive nutrients or danger signals from the network.

Now, we're only beginning to understand how complex these relationships get. . . . [But] next time you're walking through the woods or the park don't forget to thank the fungal web beneath your feet.

NOVA, Anna Rothschild, Gross Science, "The Wood Wide Web" posted Feb. 2, 2017

Response "The Covenant with Earth" verse 2, Tune: The Lord's My Shepherd ...Habel/Henry

**2. We hear the call of Mother Earth**

To recognize her ways --  
Relationships that we disrupt  
Destroy her harmony,  
Relationships that we disrupt,  
Destroy her harmony.

Gospel

Luke 13:20-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>And again he said, "To what should I compare the kingdom of God? <sup>21</sup>It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily

Pastor Henry

Silence for reflection

Hymn

"The Covenant with Earth" verses 3-6, Tune: The Lord's My Shepherd

...Habel

**3. We hear the call of Christ again**

To celebrate the news  
That Christ, the cosmic mystery,  
Can heal creation's wounds,  
That Christ, the cosmic mystery,  
Can heal creation's wounds.

**4. For God became a piece of earth**

Incarnate in the Son,  
To reconcile a broken world  
And make creation one,  
To reconcile a broken world  
And make creation one.

**5. We hear the call from deep within**

To follow God's own cue  
To make a covenant with Earth  
And to her soul be true,  
To make a covenant with Earth  
And to her soul be true.

**6. And with this covenant we make**

A promise bold and free  
To heal and care for Mother Earth,  
Alive with mystery,  
To heal and care for Mother Earth,  
Alive with mystery.

\* Affirming Our Faith

**We believe that God creates all things,  
renews all things, and celebrates all things.**

**We believe Earth is a sanctuary,  
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,  
a home for us to share with our kin.**

**We believe that God became flesh and blood,  
became a part of Earth,  
a human being called Jesus Christ,  
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,  
suffered and died on a cross,  
for all human beings and for all creation.**

**We believe that the risen Jesus  
is the Christ at the core of creation,  
reconciling all things to God,  
renewing all creation, and filling the universe.**

**We believe the Spirit renews life in creation,**

**groans in empathy with a suffering creation,  
and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.**

**We believe that with Christ we will rise,  
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.**

\* The Prayers

Trusting in our gracious Creator, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*(a brief silence)*

Gracious God, we “who are fearfully and wonderfully made” give thanks and praise to you for our lives and for all the life to which we are connected. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Wise Creator, we stand in awe of the world beyond us, the world we live in, and the world beneath our feet. Give us the wisdom to know that we are standing on holy ground. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you know how interwoven our lives are with the life of the Earth itself. Give us eyes to see as you see, and move us to act in the best interests of all of creation. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of Mystery, your kingdom is already but not fully present. Just as a little yeast mixed with lots of flour leavens the whole loaf, may our faithfulness to you be transformative within our society and make known your kingdom of mercy and love, justice and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you give us bread for our journeys and, in Jesus, you give us the Bread of Life. Rejoice with us in times of joy and sustain us in times of trouble or sorrow. We pray especially for Alisdair Berman, John MacNeil and Rosemary O’Keefe. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who serve our country near and far: for our President and Congress, for military personnel, leaders and diplomats, chaplains and caregivers. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have no one else to pray for them. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*(Leader will complete the prayers.)*

For whom and for what else does this community pray?

*(The congregation may offer, silently or aloud, any concerns they may have.)*

Holy and Loving God, your thoughts are very deep and your love for us and all creation is boundless. Receive our praise and our prayers, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

\* Sharing of the Peace

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*(The congregation greets one another with a sign of God’s peace.)*

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Offering

Offertory Music

“Spring”

...Vivaldi

\* Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**Creator God, you made everything, and you provide for every need. The water that sustains life comes from you. The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Lutherans practice what is called Eucharistic hospitality, and all who desire to receive the body and blood of Christ are welcome at the Lord's table. After you receive the bread (or a wafer, if you prefer), you may either dip it into the wine or grape juice or you may eat the bread and then drink from the common cup of wine or grape juice. The first two chalices are for intinction - for dipping the bread. The second two chalices are the common cup - for drinking. The silver chalices have wine; the pottery chalices, grape juice. Gluten-free rice wafers are available; simply ask when you come to receive the bread. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward and ask for a blessing instead.*

\* Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

\* Words of Institution

\* Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

All is ready, and all are welcome. Receive what you are: the body of Christ.

**May we become what we receive.**

\* Lamb of God

(see River of Life Liturgy booklet for music)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us, have mercy on us. (Repeat)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Holy Communion

Communion Song

**"As the Grains of Wheat"**

**465**

\* Blessing after Communion

\* Prayer after Communion

