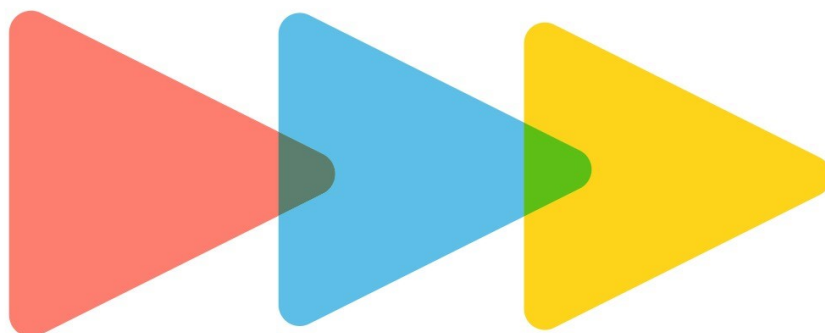


METRO D.C. SYNOD
2019 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

OPENING WORSHIP:
CREATION



FORWARD
TOGETHER
with courage and hope

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019

COLLEGE PARK MARRIOTT CONFERENCE CENTER
3501 UNIVERSITY BLVD EAST
HYATTSVILLE, MD 20783



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

METRO D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY
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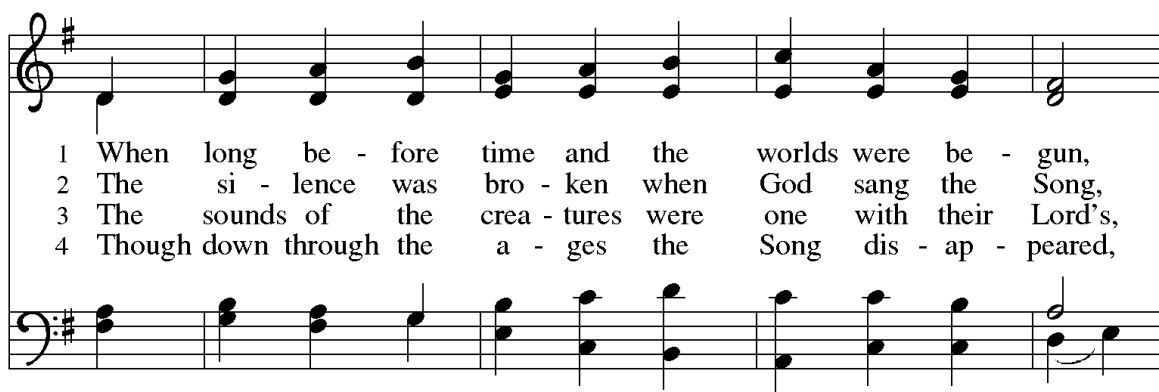
READING "The Creation"
(based on Genesis 1)

by James Weldon Johnson

GATHERING HYMN *When Long Before Time*

ELW #861

Please rise.



1 When long be - fore time and the worlds were be - gun,
2 The si - lence was bro - ken when God sang the Song,
3 The sounds of the crea - tures were one with their Lord's,
4 Though down through the a - ges the Song dis - ap - peared,



when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and light pierced the dark - ness and rhy - thm be - gan,
their har - mo - nies sweet and be - fit - ting the Word;
its har - mo - nies bro - ken and al - most un - heard,



and all was deep si - lence and night reigned su - preme,
and with its first birth - cries cre - a - tion was born,
the Sing - er was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the Sing - er comes to us to sing it a - gain,

and e - ven our Mak - er had on - ly a dream—
 and crea - ture - ly voic - es sang praise to the morn.
 the choir of the crea - tures re - ech - oed it long.
 our God - is - with - us in the world now as then.

Text: Peter W. A. Davison, b. 1936
 Music: THE SINGER AND THE SONG, Peter W. A. Davison, b. 1936; arr. George Black, 1931–2003
 Text and tune © Peter W. A. Davison, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © Estate of George Black.

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OPENING LITANY *(Selections from Litany of Commitment, written by Jay C. Rochelle)*

Leader: Breath of life, relax our grip
 so that the earth, our fragile sister, your awesome creation,
 may find rest from our labors.
 Help us to see our world
 more vividly than we have done in the past.

Congregation: **Grant us vision for the challenges of this age
 and give us hearts full of courage for the future.**

L: As we seek to be wise stewards of the gifts of the earth,
 help us to know your world
 more humanely than we have in the past.

C: **Open our eyes to that wisdom
 among those wise and humble people of the earth,
 that we might walk with care and reverence
 so as to love boldly and tread lightly.**

L: Sharing God, draw us to contemplation and silence
 so that we might see, in wonder,
 our lives intertwined with the vegetation, soils and waters,
 the creatures great and small, the beauty of each season.
 Help us to see the birth, growth, death, and rebirth
 so as to give us courage in the ongoing creation of our Creator.

**C: Deepen our faith and enliven our thinking,
nourish our bodies and strengthen our souls,
that we may be your message in the world,
your servants for the common wellness of the earth and its inhabitants.
Make us caretakers and crafters, restorers and reconcilers.**

L: Grant us grace through the Christ of the Cosmos.
Call us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus,
in the love with earth, and with our siblings.
Give us a measure of the Spirit
that these commitments we make before you
might make our work holy.

L: Let us claim this space as sacred.
May this time we have over the next two days
be a source of rooting and growth,
and at its conclusion, send us forth together
with steady hand and uplifted heart,
with clear eye and alert mind,
with firm step, and willing hands.
May we arrive at fresh springs of renewal
through God's holy Word,
in our communities of faith,
and in deep solidarity with all creation.

C: Amen. Let all the creation hear and bear witness. Amen.

Please be seated.

READING Isaiah 40:26-31

Reader: A reading from Isaiah.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

READING Ephesians 2:4-10

Reader: A reading from Ephesians.

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved — ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER

L: Let us pray.

Creating God,

You take the nothingness and fill it with life,
you take the mundane and make it sacred.

You gather up the broken pieces of our lives and create something new.

You are continually at work in our lives and in our relationships.

Through each season of life, you are there

to celebrate, to weep, to comfort, to open us to new understandings
 but always there,
 liberating, gathering, feeding, loving, saving, inspiring.
 We give thanks for your presence with us now
 as we navigate the changes ahead,
 guiding us into the next chapter of our life together.
 In Christ's name we pray.

C: Amen.

HYMN *All Are Welcome*

ELW #641

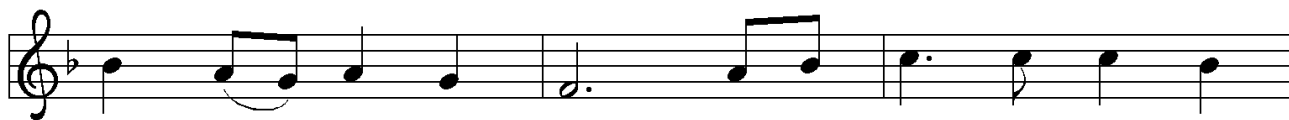
Please rise.



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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OPENING OF A SYNOD ASSEMBLY

L: As in one body we have many members,

C: so we, who are many, are one body in Christ.

L: Where two or three are gathered in my name, says the Lord,

C: I am there among them.

L: Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
with all humility and gentleness,
making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.

**C: Let us pursue what makes for justice and peace,
and for mutual upbuilding.**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people
by sending into us your Holy Spirit.

Direct us by the light of that Spirit,
that we may have a right judgment in all things
and rejoice at all times in your peace,
through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

L: I declare this assembly to be in session
in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**