**Season of Creation**

**Nativity Worships September 2, 2022**

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| Prelude | *Prelude* | Chopin |
| Opening Hymn | *Immortal, invisible, God only wise* | H 423 |
| Sequence Hymn | *Will you come and follow me* | WLP 757 |
| Offertory Hymn | *(In bulletin) Praise God from whom all blessings flow* |  |
| Communion Hymn | *God is love, and where true love is* | H577 |
| Post Communion  | *God the sculptor of the mountains* | WLP 746 |
| Postlude    | *Tarantella*  | Mendelssohn |

**The Collect**

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Season of Creation Collect**

Creating God, by your eternal Word, you said, “Let there be light,” and the entire cosmos exploded into being; help us gauge the vastness of your universe, from the subatomic to the transgalactic; and give us grace to know ourselves loved by such a creator in Jesus Christ, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, world without end. *Amen.*

**Old Testament: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

Moses said to all Israel the words which the Lord commanded him, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of theLord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

**The Psalm: 1. *Beatus vir qui non abiit***

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, \*
and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \*
everything they do shall prosper.

4 It is not so with the wicked; \*
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \*
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, \*
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

**The Epistle: Philemon 1-21**

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

**The Gospel: Luke 14:25-33**

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, `This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

**Prayers of the People**

We pray for our parish members: Jamie, Nancy, Marge, Donna, Dan, Nina A, Marian, Steve and our family and friends: Mary P, John, Miles, Deidra, Layla, Brigitte, Mary Lou, Seanna, Lauren, Karen, Cris, Andrew, Thomas, Jean, Rod, Ann, Linda and Lou Elsa.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn remembering especially those who have died in the war in Ukraine.

**Announcements**

This year Nativity will participate in the Season of Creation with a special book study: [The Book of Creation: An Introduction to Celtic Spirituality](https://smile.amazon.com/Book-Creation-Introduction-Celtic-Spirituality/dp/0809138999) by J. Philip Newell. Rev. Rebecca and I will lead this study group and we are open to the timing. If you would like to read this book with us, please [fill out this survey](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdE3dK2_zCQcC8tJNtFD1FDJWhMF-iZxN1KHqymxBdDnzUexQ/viewform) or see Rev. Rebecca about the best time: Thursday morning (10:30-11:30), Monday evenings (5, 6 or 7 p.m.) or Saturday mornings.

Plans for the Fall! Please put in your calendars

* + Welcome Back Sunday with a Pancake Brunch on September 11th
	+ Holy Hikes led by Diana Singer on Saturday September 17th --we’ll hike along the Hamilton Waterfront with an optional lunch at Beso.
	+ St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals and “Nativity Goes to the Dogs”-hot dog BBQ and fundraiser party on October 2nd.
	+ All Saints Day Memorial Garden Blessing and Commemoration on November 6th

Memorial Wall: If you would like to purchase a plaque or if you know former members of Nativity who might like to purchase a plaque, brochures are available on our website or from Jane Hassinger today. First plaques on the wall will be unveiled at the All Saints Day blessing of the Memorial Garden.

Jong Lee’s UNESCO project: The 2019 International Young Adult Forum, the Asian American community in San Rafael and Women’s Rights and Peace of the Bay Area are campaigning to ask UNESCO to expedite the process of the registration of all the resources and historical documents pertaining to the issue of “Comfort Women”, victims of Japanese Wartime Military Sexual Slavery, in the UNESCO Memory of the World Program.  Jong Lee asks Nativity members to take a picture of themselves wearing a UNESCO Demand t-shirt at coffee hour and emailing it to wrapba@gmail.com. See Jong Lee for more details.

We will with thanksgiving receive offerings of Nativity pledges and plate today. You can contribute by sending a check to the church or by using the “Give” button on our website,[www.nativityonthehill.org](http://www.nativityonthehill.org).

All who participate in this Holy Eucharist virtually receive the full benefits of the sacrament by coming with the intention of being united with Christ and one another. (BCP 457).

Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.