



# GROUND IN CREATION

## THEME OVERVIEW

This is a disorienting season in our world and in our churches, in our communities and our families. But the created world has much to teach us about cycles, systems, ebbs and flows, and how to remain grounded despite the external circumstances that surround us. We are all connected in and to this great web of life, and this feels like the right time to lean into that nature net together.

During this green season of ordinary time, we invite you to step out of the regular rhythm of the lectionary and into the flow of creation. Using the elements from above, below, and around us, we will explore Biblical stories of creation, connectedness, and care. We will get outside, put our hands into the dirt and our feet in the water. We'll engage all five senses all while we wonder and play together.

This summer, we invite you to root down, look up, and learn what it might mean for you and your community of faith to be grounded in creation.



# Summer Worship Series at Moe ~ Messiah

Theme for July 6, 2025 ~ Fire

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

This is the day that the Lord has made!

**We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

God's steadfast love surrounds us in earth, air, and fire;  
in water, flora, and fauna.

**We rest in connection with all of God's creation.**

Christ came among us,  
with breath and movement and feet that touched the earth.

**We yearn for connection with all of God's creation.**

The Holy Spirit moves among us, as close as our very breath.

**We move in connection with all of God's creation.**

**OPENING SONG:** *"When Morning Gilds the Skies"*

**ELW 853**

## GREETING

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** God of justice, kindle in us the fire of your hope. Lead us with the flame of clarity, love, and compassion. Fill us with your warmth, that we may go into the world burning with zeal for your gentleness and care. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 3:1-7

3 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." <sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. <sup>7</sup> Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey.

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

## PSALM 104 – *Selected verses*

- <sup>1</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
O Lord my God, you are very great.  
You are clothed with honor and majesty,  
<sup>2</sup> **wrapped in light as with a garment.**  
**You stretch out the heavens like a tent;**
- <sup>3</sup> you set the beams of your chambers on the waters;  
you make the clouds your chariot;  
you ride on the wings of the wind;  
<sup>4</sup> **you make the winds your messengers,**  
**fire and flame your ministers.**
- <sup>5</sup> You set the earth on its foundations,  
so that it shall never be shaken.  
<sup>6</sup> **You cover it with the deep as with a garment;**  
**the waters stood above the mountains.**
- <sup>24</sup> O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
<sup>25</sup> **There is the sea, great and wide;**  
**creeping things innumerable are there,**  
**living things both small and great.**
- <sup>27</sup> These all look to you  
to give them their food in due season;  
<sup>28</sup> **when you give to them, they gather it up;**  
**when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.**
- <sup>29</sup> When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.  
<sup>30</sup> **When you send forth your spirit, they are created,**  
**and you renew the face of the ground.**
- <sup>31</sup> May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works—  
<sup>32</sup> **who looks on the earth and it trembles,**  
**who touches the mountains and they smoke.**
- <sup>33</sup> I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.  
<sup>34</sup> **May my meditation be pleasing to him,**  
**for I rejoice in the Lord.**

**GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:11**

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.     **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON SONG: Holy Spirit, Truth Divine “”**

***ELW 398***

**SERMON**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth,**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYER of TRANSFORMATION**

Lord, the flame of your transforming spirit burns within me!

I was a pile of ash ...

**you made me a light for the world.**

I was a stone ...

**you made me salt for the earth.**

I was lifeless as clay ...

**you made me part of the Body of Christ.**

I was sinful ...

**you made me holy.**

I was nothing ...

**you made me part of everything.**

Lord Jesus, transform me with the refining fire of your Holy Spirit!

When the discouraged cry for hope, **let me be hope.**

When the hungry cry for bread, **let me be bread.**

When the thirsty cry for water, **let me be water.**

When the suffering cry for help, **let me be help.**

When the sick cry for healing, **let me be healing.**

When the bound cry for freedom, **let me be freedom.**

When the outcasts cry for love, **let me be love.**

Lord who is hope,

**who is bread and water,**

who is help and healing,

**who is freedom,**

who is love.

**Transform me anew,**

**that I may be part of your work,**

**as you transform the world.**

**Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY:**

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

### **OFFERING PRAYER:**

**God of abundance, We give you thanks for the gifts of the earth and the gifts of your people. Knit us together as one in you that we may know connection, joy, and peace with all of creation. Amen.**

**BLESSING:**

May the God who holds creation tenderly bless you, keep you, and fill you with life, in the name of Christ, who grounds us, loves us, and draws us into joy.

**THREEFOLD AMEN.**

**CLOSING SONG: “Shine, Jesus Shine ”**

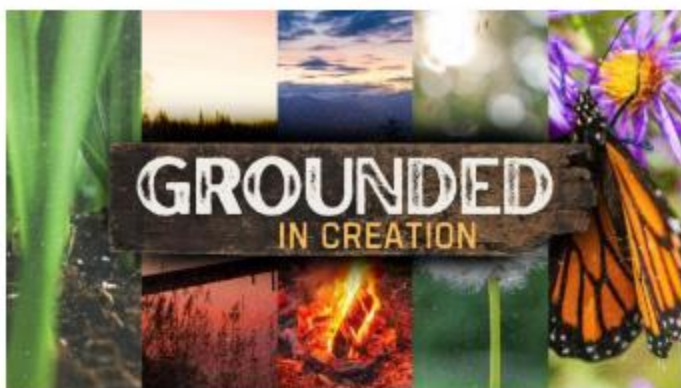
***ELW 671***

**DISMISSAL:**

Go in peace, care for creation. **Thanks be to God!**

*Grounded in Creation Summer Series  
© Church Anew. Used with Permission.*

**Check the next page for  
Creation activities you can do this week!**



## Grounded In Creation- Week 3: Fire

**Touch** – Light a candle or small fire and feel the heat without pain. Fire refines—like controlled burns in nature. What might the Holy Spirit be burning away in you to reveal your true self?

**Taste** – Eat something roasted or baked slowly and with gratitude. Notice the warmth and the fire's role in transforming food into nourishment.

**Smell** – Recall the lingering scent of campfire. Reflect on memories of gathering around fire—storytelling, warmth, connection. How might you cultivate that same community today?

**Hear** – Listen to the crackle of a flame, or imagine it. Fire holds great power. What small act can you do today to restore balance—in creation and within?

**See** – Sit quietly with a candle's flame. Consider



your inner fire: is it strong and well-tended? What helps it grow, and how are you being called to share your light?