

## Season of Creation, St Francis Sunday

Assembly Mennonite Church

October 5, 2025

### Gathering

Hymn VT 95 Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah

Call to Worship

Welcome, Birthday Recognition

### Opening Ourselves

Hymn VT 713 Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace

(with soloists Tilly Schramm and Norah Osborne)

Peace Lamp

L: Let justice roll down like a river

**P: And goodness like an ever-flowing stream.**

Offering- Hymn VT 757 There's Enough for All

### Telling God's Story

VT 63 Like a Rock

Children's Time

(children 3 and under are dismissed for little children time with childcare after)

Scripture -Psalm 148: 7-14

L: The stories of God for the people of God

**P: Thanks be to God**

Sermon *Beyond the birdbath*

interspersed with VT 81 All Creatures, Worship God Most High

### Responding

Communion- Hymns VT 478, 461, 485, 427

*To receive communion or a blessing, come down the center aisle and return to your seats via the side aisles. All the bread is gluten free. Children are especially welcome to come forward and receive a blessing and grapes from a pastor. Adults may receive a blessing as well.*

Sharing from our lives

Pastoral Prayer

*Holy One beyond all names, Eternal Wellspring, May love rise again in us today, With food for every table, Shelter for every family, And reverence for every life. Forgive us our failings in love, And free us from all falseness*

*That the light of our souls may shine, And the strength of our spirits endure  
For Earth and all its people, This day, tonight, and forever.*

Amen (John Philip Newell)

### Sending

Introducing Visitors & Announcements

(Sunday School teachers dismissed)

Hymn VT 121 When at Creation's Dawn

Benediction

Worship Leader: Kathy Meyer Reimer; Song Leader: Karissa Miller; Peace Lamp: Patricia Ebersole Zwier; Children's Time: Julie Keim; Preacher: Mary Lehman Yoder; Artwork: Megan Fleming; Musicians: Bev Lapp; Tech: Glenn Gilbert, Logan Swartzendruber; Scripture Reader: Kaia Kennedy; Pastoral Prayer: Scott Coulter; Communion Servers: Scott Coulter, Anna Yoder Schlabach, Karl Shelly

	Religion of Creation	Religion of Empire
<b>Purpose of religion</b>	To be grounded in a relationship with the Creator God for the blessing and abundance of <i>all</i> people and <i>all</i> creation	Claims the God of creation but its purpose is to legitimate a god who provides blessing and abundance for <i>some</i> at the expense of <i>others</i>
<b>Places of sacred encounter</b>	Mountains, wilderness, rivers, direct encounter, table fellowship	Urban temple, mediated by priestly elite; urban royal rituals
<b>God's "home"</b>	Beyond and within creation and among people	In a temple near the palace in the royal city
<b>Life's purpose</b>	Praise God with joy in gratitude for God's gifts	Serve the gods through loyalty to empire
<b>Relationship with others</b>	Hospitality; love	Suspicion, violence
<b>Relationship with land</b>	Belongs to God; people are "tenants"	Belongs to king and those who can afford to buy it
<b>Relationship with "enemies"</b>	Love them	Destroy them

From "'Come Out My People!' God's Call out of Empire in the Bible and Beyond," by Wes-Howard-Brook (2010: Orbis Books)

**Second-hour adult option:** Informal fellowship time in the MP space for all non-Sunday School teacher adults

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