



SEASON OF CREATION

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

20
25



We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation **want to respectfully acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations.** We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Cowlitz and Chinook People. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths.

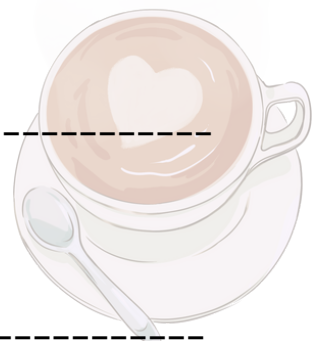


St. Stephen's is a **reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community** striving through worship, love and service to welcome all people just as God created you. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, **our welcome knows no boundaries** of age, race, ethnicity, culture, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. **We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we!**

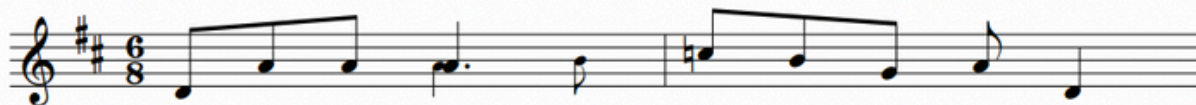
Connect with Fr. Nic: Please leave your name and email/phone number and Fr. Nic will connect with you this week with an invitation to enjoy a cup of coffee on him!

Name:

Email/Phone:



Gather Us In



1. Here in this place new light is stream - ing,
 2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry,
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,



Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
 We are the old— who yearn for your face,
 Here we will take the bread of new birth,



See in this space our fears and our dream - ings,
 We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,



Brought here to you in the light of this day.
 Called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 Call us a - new to be salt for the earth.



Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,
 Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,



Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;
 Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;
 Give us to eat the bread that is you;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion



We shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
Give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
Lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: GATHER US IN, Irregular; Marty Haugen, b.1950
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Celebrant: This is the day the Creator has made.

***People:* Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

A Penitential Order for Creation

Because we view our lives in Christ through the forgiveness we receive from God, I invite us to begin with the Penitential Order.

Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and all Creation.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant: We have forgotten who we are.

***People:* We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos.**

We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought only our own security.

We have exploited simply for our own ends.

We have distorted our knowledge.

We have abused our power.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the land is barren.

And the waters are poisoned.

And the air is polluted.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the forests are dying.

And the creatures are disappearing.

And humans are despairing.

We have forgotten who we are.

We ask forgiveness.

We ask for the gift of remembering.

We ask for the strength to change.

Help us to remember who we are.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

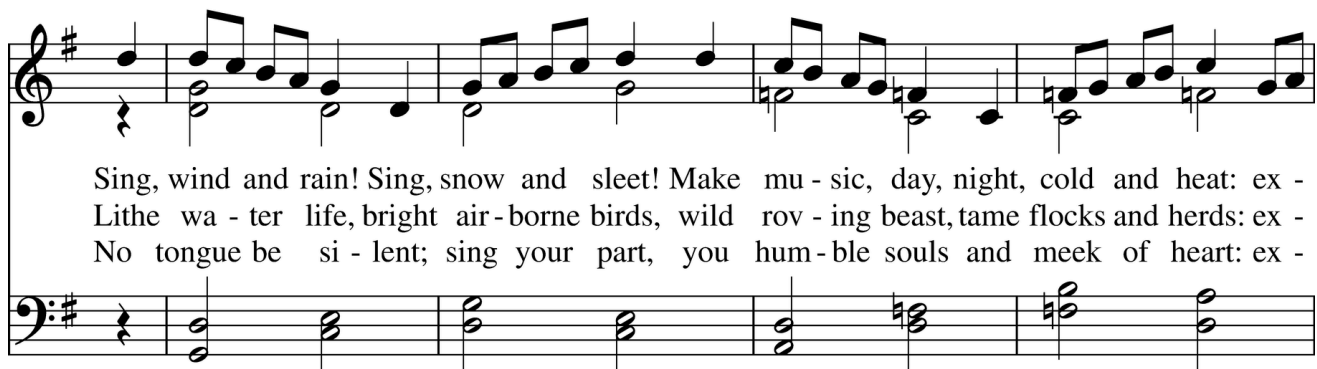
Children are invited to follow the procession of the cross from the Church to the Parish Hall for Sunday School. While the program is geared for children 10 & under, ALL children are welcome to attend. Parents are also welcome to attend. Children will return to the church in time for Eucharist (typically returning after the passing of the peace).



1. Let all cre - a - tion bless the Lord, till heav'n with praise is ring - ing.
 2. All liv - ing things up - on the earth, green fer - tile hills and moun-tains,
 3. O peo - ple peo - ple ev - ery - where, lift up a hymn of glo - ry;



Sun, moon, and stars, peal out a chord, stir up the an - gels' sing - ing.
 sing to the God who gave you birth; be joy - ful, springs and foun-tains.
 let all who know God's stead - fast care tell our sal - va - tion's sto - ry.



Sing, wind and rain! Sing, snow and sleet! Make mu - sic, day, night, cold and heat: ex -
 Lithe wa - ter life, bright air-borne birds, wild rov - ing beast, tame flocks and herds: ex -
 No tongue be si - lent; sing your part, you hum - ble souls and meek of heart: ex -



alt the God who made you.
 alt the God who made you.
 alt the God who made you.

The Creator be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Collect for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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.**

Collect for the Stewardship of Creation

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and remembering the account that we must give one day, grant that we may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture.

A reading from Exodus 32:7-14

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, 7 your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will

multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51:1-11

**1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.**

**2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.**

**3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.**

**4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.**

**5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.**

**6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

**7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**

**8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

**9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

**10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.**

**11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.**

The Book of 1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Procession (before reading) & Recession (after reading)

(Please stand in body or spirit)



The Holy Gospel According to Luke 15:1-10

Glory to you, O Christ.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily--Fr. Nic Mather

A Confession of St. Patrick *(Please stand in body or spirit)*

This creed is attributed to the 5th century missionary and bishop Patrick, known as the Apostle of Ireland, in the story of "Patrick and the royal daughters" from the biographical Collectanea by the 7th century Irish Bishop Tírechán. It is included in the 10th century The Tripartite Life of Saint Patrick which is traditionally preached during the three-day Feast of St. Patrick in Ireland.

**Our God, God of all people,
God of heaven and earth, sea and rivers,
God of sun and moon, of all stars,
God of highest mountain, of deepest valleys,
God over heaven and in heaven and under heaven.**

**He has his dwelling.
in heaven and earth and sea and all that is in them.**

**He inspires all,
he gives life to all,
he surpasses all,
he upholds all.**

**He ignites the light of the sun.
He surrounds the stars and tells them to shine.
He makes fountains in dry lands,
and dry islands in the sea,
and stars to serve the greater lights.**

**He has a Son,
coeternal with him and like him.
The Son is not younger than the Father,
neither is the Father older than the Son.**

**And the Holy Spirit breathes in them.
Not separate are the Father and Son and Holy Spirit.**

Prayers of the People: *Honoring God in Creation Form 2*

During the silence after each bidding, the people may offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Celebrant: Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

Reader: In the beginning
God was.

Here and now,
God is.

In the future,
God will be.

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet. *Silence*

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it. *Silence*

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed. *Silence*

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being. *Silence*

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Prayers of the People: Honoring God in Creation Form 2

During the silence after each bidding, the people may offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits. *Silence*
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict. *Silence*
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings. *Silence*
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures. *Silence*
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help especially Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Reed Nunnelee, D. Rowley, Marlene Norman, Mary Russel and those we now name either silently or aloud. *Silence*
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died especially Terry Alsteen and those we now name either silently or aloud. *Silence*
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Creating God, your name is written on every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. We praise and worship you for the magnificence of your creation. Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

The Offertory

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

Give to the virtual collection plate by scanning or going online @ sslv.org/give



Worship Leaders

Celebrant--Fr. Nic Mather

Musician--Riki Davis

Altar Guild--Becky Edmiston, Michele Waite

Reader--Bev Finlay, John Edmiston

Greeter--Janice Stixrud

Chalice Bearer--Michele Waite

Usher--Mike Claxton

Verger--John Edmiston

Vestry Presence--Greg Moore, Lisa Sudar

Coffee Hour--Tosha Big Eagle

Called by Christ

Verses



1. Called by Christ, you built on the bed - rock,
2. Called by Christ, you of - fer God's chil - dren
3. Called by Christ, you thirst af - ter good - ness.



God who was faith - ful through each pass - ing year.
Food for their hun - ger and songs for the soul.
Seek - ing God's pres - ence you sure - ly will find.



Spir - it - led, you wel - come the stran - ger,
Spir - it - led, you look to the fu - ture,
Spir - it - led, you plant for the har - vest,

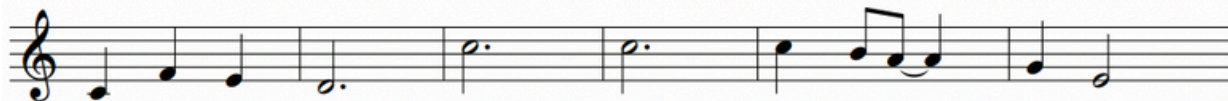


Prom - ise of new life a - wak - en - ing here.
hand to your la - bor and eye on the goal.
Peace, love, and jus - tice for all hu - man - kind.

Refrain



Sing, sing, sing of God's good-ness. Cel - e-brate love a -



live here to - day. Share, share life in the Spir - it.



Look for God's reign and seek Je - sus' way.

The Holy Eucharist

The Creator be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Creator.

Let us give thanks to our loving God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people. And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

The people join together in the Sanctus, and then the presider continues

SANCTUS

The Sanctus acclamation is sung to conclude the introduction to the eucharistic prayer.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of pow - er, God of might, heav - en and
 earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is
 he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
 san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew. Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Fraction

Fraction Ann Marie Long

Al - le lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu

4 ia. Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us, There-fore let us keep the

8 feast. Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

You are invited to come forward and receive Eucharist at this time. We will be sharing wine from a common chalice, so if you would prefer intinction please let the priest know so that they may intinct in a separate chalice reserved for this practice. Gluten free communion is available and a non-alcoholic option in place of the wine is also available upon request.

For those joining via Live-Stream:

A Prayer for a Person Unable to Take the Eucharist

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Prayer for Eucharistic Visitor

We offer a prayer from our community to those who are unable to join us as we send the sacrament to them carried by a minister of the church

As you go to the sick and homebound, take with you not only the sacrament that we have celebrated, but also the Word of God which we have heard, as well as the affection of this parish community. Ask for the prayers of those whom you visit in return. Go, now, with God's peace and blessing. AMEN.

The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1. The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
 2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
 3. Con - fused and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With you, dear
 5. You spread a ta - ble in my sight, Your sav - ing
 6. And so, through all the length of days Your good - ness



fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he's lead - ing, And, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, And on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, Your rod and staff my
 grace be - stow - ing; And, oh, what trans - port
 fails me nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I



I am his And he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - ing.
 gent - ly laid, And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, Your cross be - fore to guide me.
 of de - light From your pure chal - ice flow - ing!
 sing your praise With - in your house for - ev - er.

Text: Psalm 23; Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.

Tune: ST. COLUMBA, 8 7 8 7; Gaelic; harm. by A. Gregory Murray, OSB, 1905–1992

Postcommunion Prayer (*please stand in body or spirit*)

**Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,
that the gifts of your Spirit may work
in us and renew the face of the earth.
May we be one with you
so that our work is yours
and your work is ours.
Lead us to transform our lives
to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing & Dismissal

Go forth now to care for God's world.
Use resources wisely.
Share your knowledge.
Sacrifice where necessary.
Live in harmony with all creation.
Go out into all the world as prophets of a new way of living
and preach the good news to all.
And the blessing of the Creator God, the Risen Son, and the Promised Holy Spirit
bless you that you might be a blessing to others today and always. **Amen.**

Let us go forth into all Creation, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn

Community Invitations on the Last Page

***If you are new or visiting please introduce yourself to Fr. Nic for a coffee mug
and welcome packet, and then join us for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
(across the courtyard, follow the people & the signs).***

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

The Hymnal 1982, #437

1 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his Name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*. Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Birmingham*, from *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813; harm. *Songs of Praise*, 1925.

Fish Soup Needs

The FISH crew would like to continue the annual soup kits that are made every year. This all began when 8 years ago we could not give away the bags of dry beans that were donated.

We are now in need of specific, DRY beans to make these kits. We need the **help of at least 35 people** to donate the following in **ONE pound bags**:

1 bag Black Beans

2 bags Green Lentils

2 bags Red beans

If you prefer to donate, we will be happy to do the shopping for you.

Thank you!

September Save the Dates:



Canon for Congregational Development, Ivar Hillesland, Joins Us Sunday September 21, special Coffee Hour Interactive Presentation following worship



Karaoke Night 2: Electric Boogaloo, Monday September 15, 7:30pm



Eucharistic Minister Training, 9:30am September 28



Newcomer Sunday @ Coffee Hour September 28



Art Night @ The Nest, Wednesday, October 15 @ 6:30, RSVP Required