

St. Jude the Apostle Episcopal Church in Cupertino

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St. Jude's is a spiritual oasis where lives are transformed.

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the **View** from the orchard

This Month

Climate Change
Reality Project
page 1

And God said,
"It is very
good!"
page 2

Season of
Creation
pages 2-3

Creation from
the Library
page 3

Samples of
Creation Liturgy
page 4

Sabbatical
R & R
pages 4-5

Financial
Promise Season
pages 5-6

Vestry Notes
page 6-7

Gratitudes
page 7

The Climate Reality Project

Chris Moylan

For some years, I have become increasingly concerned about global warming, and now view it as the biggest problem in the world. The strongest calling I now feel is to do something about it.

The scientific projects I was pursuing for my last two startup employers were all about saving energy, and I used to teach my chemistry students about the issue as well. I agreed to give up my tenure and join a Congressional office in hopes of making more of a difference.

At the end of August, I flew to Los Angeles for three days of leadership training for Al Gore's Climate Reality Project. I am now authorized to give *The Talk*, and committed to taking at least ten actions per year to address climate change. One of my first actions will be to give a presentation to the St. Jude's congregation in October, which I'm very excited to do.

There is some scary information in there, but some hopeful information as well. I shall do my best to let everyone know what they can do to help save all the living creatures on Earth, birds and cattle and creeping things and beasts of the Earth of every kind, including our own species, now threatened by a possible mass extinction event. It is our duty to be their steward, and we can and shall carry out that sacred task.





And God Said, "It is Very Good!"

Bruce Bramlett

We have been celebrating Creation at St. Jude's. This is vitally important, at least because of the grave impact of our world's growing ecological crisis and our abiding Christian hope for the earth's salvation.

The created order in its wonder and complexity is the result of God's intentional creativity. Using the raw materials of primordial reality, God's Spirit "broods," an image portraying that of a mother eagle sitting on her nest, a powerful feminine image of God as nurturer and life-giver, bringing forth life in love. God is completely engaged in the concrete materiality of the world. The creation is the locus of God's dwelling and our wonderful home. God's loving hand showers infinite blessings and goodness on this world and then proclaims it very good.

The world is not a temporary platform from which we depart to some superior "spiritual" place. Creation is not something irredeemable from which we must escape. Heaven and earth are aspects of the same whole.

Yet God does not complete creation. God gives into our human care and it continues as an ongoing dynamic process of creating, bringing forth the new, and mending the broken. Creation remains a wildly

exuberant, robust and infinitely inter-related celebration that shouts joy.

God also chooses to limit God's Self and calls us to our own limitations. We have obligations and responsibilities to tend and nurture God's world as stewards and caretakers. We have limits on what we may and may not do. Our present worsening ecological crisis is an indictment against our intensifying frenzy of despoilment, destruction and befoulment of creation. We cannot just use our world as our garbage can. We must serve, protect and nourish creation. We must be stewards or die as fools in our hubris. This creation is God's home with us. It is very good. We are charged with its care and fulfillment.

We must hear this story as a call to repentance, to become the servant/co-creators we were meant to be. Our Jewish siblings call this, "tikkun olam," the "mending" of the world. Let us be about that sacred business.



Season of Creation: from exploration to action

Sarah+

"As we understand more every day the environmental crisis that is upon us and the ways it threatens the poorest of the world first, we are called to rapidly develop a deepening understanding of our relationship with Creation and the moral imperative for greater stewardship of the Earth. This is why the Presiding Bishop identified Care of Creation as one

of the pillars of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.” ~ in a letter from Bishop Mary to Rectors.

I first learned of the Season of Creation when serving at the Cathedral in LA, and later in my relationship with The Rev. Rachel Mash in South Africa, where the Anglican resources for this season originated. As Rachel shared with me years ago, our decisions in the US have an impact on them in South Africa (e.g. our use of plastic ending up on their beaches). This sense of interconnectedness with humanity and all of creation resonated with my long-held personal practices gleaned from Anabaptist theology, and I was thrilled to find a way of exploring these commitments in Episcopal liturgy.

This season follows a 3-year cycle of exploring our relationship and care for various aspects of creation – as a way to honor God’s work in the world and care for our brothers and sisters around the world. It usually falls in September and includes St. Francis Feast Day. Through opening acclamations, confessions, creeds, and more, we are invited to reflect on our understanding of, and care for, creation.

And in the Anglican way of “praying shapes believing,” we hope that our worship and study will embolden us into greater action. For example, the young adults explored ‘creation care’ at a recent gathering and named a few actions they hope to practice, such as using washable towels in the kitchen, bar soap, or reusable veggie/fruit bags at the grocery store. As we explore, reflect, and pray together this season, what new actions might you take up toward greater care for creation?

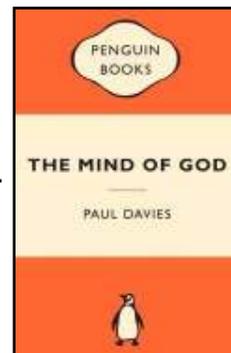


Creation from the St. Jude’s Library

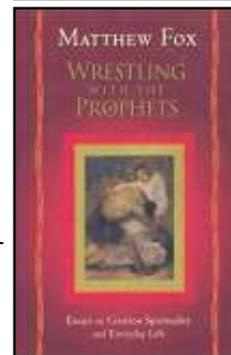
Lianne Card

You can find the following items on the theme of Creation on the library cart in the parish hall:

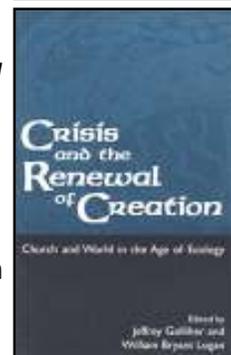
Davies, Paul. *The Mind of God: the Scientific Basis for a Rational World.* 1992. Why does the universe exist? A physicist unlocks answers by considering scientific theories in the context of the philosophies of Plato, Descartes, Hume and Kant.



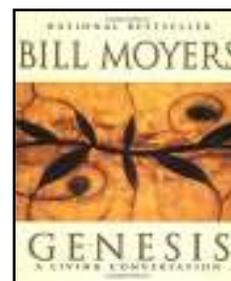
Fox, Matthew. *Wrestling with the Prophets: Essays on Creation Spirituality,* 1995. Theologian Matthew Fox contributes outspoken essays on ecological topics and considers the mystical perspectives of Julian of Norwich and Meister Eckhart.



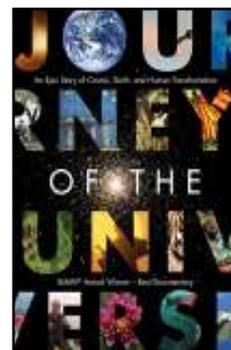
Golliher, Geoffrey, editor. *Crisis and the Renewal of Creation: Church and World in the Age of Ecology.,* 1996. This collection contains ecological sermons by eminent thinkers at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.



Moyers, Bill. *Genesis: A Living Conversation.* This companion to the successful television series of 1996 contains transcribed conversations by eminent theologians on major themes of the first book of the Bible. Still relevant.



Swimm, Brian, *Journey of the Universe: An Epic Story of Cosmos, Earth and Human Transformation.* 2011. (DVD) “A clear, wondrous telling of the universe story. The science is rigorous and engaging. The film is mind-blowing in all respects,” commented biologist Ursula Goodenough.



Below is some of what we have shared in worship this Season of Creation:

Collect of the Day

God, our Creator, as we look into the skies we celebrate the wonders of the worlds that surround us. Help us to see your presence in the evening sky, to see your spirit in the wind, and to see your mercy in the falling rain. Teach us to hear the good news from the sky celebrating the glory of God in Earth. Rejoice with us as we behold the dawn revealing the mysteries of the skies above and Earth below. In the name of Christ who unites heaven and Earth. Amen.

Creed

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things. We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a part of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

Blessing

Christ calls us to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion, to serve Earth by caring for creation, especially the atmosphere above that gives breath to all creatures of Earth. Now may the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in sky and Earth and the knowledge of Christ within you.



Sabbatical Renewal & Refreshment

Wilma Jakobsen

I am grateful beyond words to St. Jude's Parish and all those who made it possible for me to go on sabbatical. I experienced deep reconnection with beloved friends and family in beautiful places; deep refreshment of body, mind and spirit; deep rest and renewal; and was spiritually energized by the 30-day Ignatian Exercises in the last month.

It started in Kauai, Hawaii, with a spectacular sunset and double rainbow, a cosmic sign of blessing on the months to come! The double rainbow continued in Cape Town en route to Volmoed ('full of hope and courage') retreat center to spend three weeks with a group of young church leaders on a longer residential leadership training program.



During my time in Holland, France, Denmark and England, I spent time with all but one of my cousins (one was away with family). For most, it was twenty or thirty years since we were last together!

I spent a week in the Taizé Community in France, with people from all over the world. The daily prayer times with readings, prayers, silence and four part harmony singing were music for my soul.

The beauty in every place I visited was astounding. Ancient juxtaposed with modern, rivers, lakes, oceans, mountains, tulips - bucolic views made my heart leap! Hiking, cycling, walking and swimming were good for my body!

Retreat and silence in community was most important. Together with two others, we made our way through thirty days of intensity - multiple Scriptures a day, reflection, meditation, prayer, daily walking, swimming - following a curriculum journey devised by St. Ignatius of Loyola hundreds of years ago, wisely directed by Sr Sagrario.

This amazing time brought me to a new place of healing, rootedness, grounding, energy and joy. I am delighted to be back at St. Jude's with everyone and look forward to sharing more sabbatical stories in a Sunday forum on September 23. Thank you all again!

A snippet of sabbatical haikus:

Cousins in conversation	Fire in my belly
Roots reconnecting	Living prophetic witness
Family belonging	Jesus' strong message
Multiple cultures	Sabbatical time!
Bucolic views abounding	Reclaiming my deepest self
God in the silence	Gratitude abounds
Gifts of grace given	
Freely as God loves so much	
Open to receive	



2019 Financial Promise Season: "Strengthening Our Community Together"

Core planning team: Sarah+, Kathy Yates, Steve Rudd, Jennifer Shearin, and Karen LeBlanc

Our 2019 Financial Promise Season is coming up, this year focusing on "Strengthening Our Community Together."

"Community" is what draws many people to come and to stay at St. Jude's. This has been true over many years, and we continue to invest in life-giving relationships with one another. So through October, we will give thanks for our community's financial and other resources, hear personal stories about the differences St. Jude's makes spiritually and relationally in our lives, and explore how to strengthen our experience of shared spirit and mission.

Our financial aspirations for 2019 are aimed at strengthening St. Jude's community spirit, supporting Social Justice/Outreach at 10% of total pledges, and maintaining current paid clergy and staffing levels.

At the Harvest Dinner on October 19, we will celebrate together the abundance of our resources and our community's generosity, with guest speaker Bishop Mary. We will also enjoy a theological reflection exercise led by congregant and Education For Ministry mentor Karen LeBlanc.

(continued on next page)

Watch for more details coming soon from Wilma and others!

2 Corinthians 8:7, 14b-15, "...since you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you -- see that you also excel in this grace of giving... the goal is equality, as it is written: 'The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.'"

P.S. For those of you who enjoy thinking ahead, here are a few teaser "community" questions to ponder:

✓ In what ways does St. Jude's offer you a quality of community that you do not experience in other circles?

✓ How do you balance care of self with care of others?

✓ How does St. Jude's empower you to practice kindness?



Vestry Notes: Sept. 18, 2018

The 5th Sunday service: as a standing principle will start at 9:30

Safe Park: has grown in numbers and community since last year and because the church expected to take over this month had to withdraw, will be with us until the end of September, then will move to the West Valley Campus, supported there by West Valley Presbyterian church.

Solar inverters: One of our two has failed. It will be replaced with a more powerful one. Whether the old one (still functioning) should also be kept is under investigation.

Social Justice Outreach: Vestry approved the following donations: Santa Maria Urban Ministry, \$15,000, California Friends of St. Patrick's for the school in Haiti, \$1,500, Correctional Institution Chaplaincy, \$2,500, Four Homes of Mercy, \$1,500, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, \$5,064 for the Bishop Baskerville-Burrows Scholarship Fund to support black and Native American students at CDSP, and \$1,600 to support the establishment, of a Education for Ministry group at St. Jude's before the end of this year.

Financial book, records: The finance committee met with and received some recommendations from the diocesan auditor. The challenge of necessarily switching bookkeeping programs two years ago has left some minor matters to be put in different categories. The Finance committee has responded to all suggestions made by the auditor.

The playground: Only a very few minor items remain before we get the building permit. The city has asked for a permanent easement to put up a new traffic light at Stelling and McClellan. Vestry voted to approve the easement—when we get our permit.

The policy to Protect Minors: The policy, consistent with that of our Diocese, was adopted, along with the accompanying forms. Vestry agreed to develop a policy to protect vulnerable adults. Vestry authorized buying a \$500,000 insurance policy covering the protection of minors, and will expand the policy to \$1,000,000 to protect vulnerable adults when the procedures and forms are in place.

The Harvest Dinner: Pursuant to the recommendation of the committee, Vestry authorized the spending of up to \$2,000 to provide a partially catered meal for the event.

The View: Vestry will look at how often and with what contact the View would best serve the community. No decisions were made.

The Website: is under re-creation. Stay tuned!



Your 2018 Vestry: (from back left) Pat Coles, Ken Foot, Lauren Minkel, Mason Razavi, Kathy Yates, Don Disney, Wilma Jakobsen, Susan Davenport, Liz Mulford, Scott Rotondo. (front from left) Shanie George, Sarah Lapenta-H, Judy Bailey.

Gratitudes: We give special thanks for...

•Our four, wonderful nursery staff members: Tam, Erika, Christy, and Alison. Christy and Alison sub regularly, as Tam and Erika have been gone this year with vacations and family care. If you haven't met Christy (Erika's daughter) or Alison (connected with us through the Azars) yet, introduce yourself!

•Matt Matthews, Jani+ and many, many others who coordinated our Fourth of July festivities.

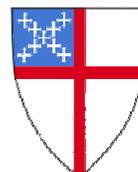
•The prayer, time, and creativity Bruce+, Carolyn Bowker, Elena Lamp, Karen LeBlanc, Lauren Minkel-Corriveau, and Sarah+ offered in designing our July worship services, and the new worship experiences and relationships that were formed over the summer.

•Beth Leonard and the many youth and volunteer leaders who hosted a fun Vacation Bible Camp this year and helped to lead our worship on July 29th!

•The leadership of Kathy Yates, Ken Foot, Donna, Sarah+, Bruce+, and Jani+, and many leaders and volunteers of ministries during Wilma's sabbatical time.



- The ongoing work of Jennifer Stern, Nick Harrah, Vance Nau and Tom Dyer in shepherding the classroom courtyard project.
- Wilma's sabbatical time for rest and renewal and her safe return to St. Jude's.
- Kathy Disney for coordinating parish-camp this year and for the wonderful people who came out for fireside fun and food, worship, and enjoying nature together.
- Laura and Billie's musical leadership and the choir that's gathered for the new program year.





Episcopal Church, Cupertino, CA

The VIEW from the Orchard is a monthly publication

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