# Worship Planning

# Creation Time in the Season of Pentecost

## What Is Creation Saying to Us?

# Second Sunday, Year B: Learn My Stories!

Texts (non-lectionary): Wisdom of Solomon 7:15—8:1; Romans 8:35–39; Acts 17:16–28 Psalm 104:1–9; Genesis 9: 8–9, 12–13

Submitted by Alydia Smith

### Gathering

#### Music

Gathering Words

“God is Holy Mystery,

beyond complete knowledge,

above perfect description.

“Yet,

in love,

the one eternal God seeks relationship”

with all of creation including each of us.

(*based on A Song of Faith*)

#### Call to Worship

We love each other because

**God creates a universe with the possibility of being and relating.**

We tend to the Earth because

**God mends the broken and reconciles the estranged.**

We are drawn into worship because

**God guides all things toward harmony with their Source.**

(*based on a Song of Faith*)

#### Opening Hymn

“Maker of the Sun and Moon” (*Voices United* 323)

### Listening: The Story of God’s Love

#### Children’s Time

(*Discuss with the children the ways in which we know that somebody loves us, and how that love is shown. Not all love is visible; we can’t touch all forms of love, but often we know that it is there by how it makes us feel—usually through extremes of feeling, e.g., really happy, really mad, really glad, or really sad. There are many ways to show that God loves us* (*one way is because we are told God loves us, over and over*)*. Today, we celebrate how God shows love through creation. God created us and all of creation. As a church we believe that God continues to create and is constantly working with all of creation in ways that we will never understand. We believe that God is always with us, and that there is nothing that we can do to make God go away! It is hard to imagine, but somehow, all of God’s creation tells us the story of God’s love.*)

(*Sing with the children the following song to the tune for “The More We Play Together.” The words are based on A Song of Faith*.)

In all of God’s creation

our God is creating.

In all of God’s creation

our God is there:

Caring and giving,

moving and living.

In all of God’s creation

our God is there.

#### Children’s Hymn

“Praise Our Maker” (*Voices United* 316)

#### Reading

Wisdom of Solomon 7:15—8:1

#### Responsive Reading

(*Using A Song of Faith instead of a psalm*)

(*Prepare images or graphics that correspond with each line that follows, or if possible have people come forward to build a creation scene in accordance with each line.*)

**Voice One:** Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery

(*place blue and green fabric at the front of the worship space*)

**Voice Two:** of living things, diverse and interdependent,

(*place plants on the green fabric and perhaps a fish in a bowl, or starfish or shells on the blue fabric*)

**Voice Three:** of complex patterns of growth and evolution,

(place a four-braid cord between the fabrics representing earth and water)

**Voice One:** of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls

(*place/hang some stars or twinkling lights; if possible, position LED Christmas lights under the fabric and turn them on during the reading of this line*)

**All: We sing of God the Creator,**

**the Maker and Source of all that is.**

**Voice One:** Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God the Creator,

**Voice Two:** who is both creation and beyond it.

**Voice One:** All parts of creation,

animate and inanimate,

**Voice Two:** are related.

**Voice One:** All creation is good.

**All: We sing of the Creator,**

**who made humans to live and move**

**and have their being in God.**

#### Readings

Romans 8:35–39

Acts 17:16–28

#### Hymn

“Wisdom 7” (*Voices United* page 892)

“Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom” (*More Voices* 10)

#### Reflection Suggestion

Theme: The story of creation is a story of God’s providence and love.

**Questions for reflection and response**

The author of the Wisdom of Solomon explains that wisdom is something that we should pursue.

What are common things that are pursued in your community (e.g., stability, wealth, acknowledgement, prestige)? Are these pursuits exclusionary? Why is the pursuit of wisdom so important and why might it be less attractive than other things that we pursue?

How is the story of creation and love linked to the pursuit of wisdom?

God’s providence encompasses all wisdom and all of creation; Paul is convinced that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Do you buy it? How do you reconcile God’s providence with the evils of the world?

### Responding

#### Gathering Our Gifts

(*based on A Song of Faith*)

“God is creative and self-giving

 generously moving

 in all the near and distant corners of the universe.

Nothing exists that does not find its source in God.

Our first response to God’s providence is gratitude.”

We present our offering,

As a way of saying thanks.

#### Prayer of Dedication

The story of creation is a story of love.

Love given.

Love blessed.

Love broken, shared, and poured out.

We are grateful to be part of this creation,

and ask that you accept our gifts,

small symbols of our love,

for your use and service.

Amen.

#### Hymn

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go” (*Voices United* 658) or

“Shadow and Substance” (*More Voices* 44)

#### Prayers of the People

To an un-named God,

we bring many names:

Wholly Mystery, that is Wholly Love.

We live in you.

Our homes, our lives, our communities are a part of your creation,

and we give thanks for all of the places and spaces where we find comfort and support.

(*Name community events and celebrations that you are thankful for.*)

Maker and Source,

we move in you.

As we travel in our faith journey, help our thoughts and meditations,

words and actions,

be to and for your Holy purpose.

(*Name ministries and programs in your community*.)

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,

we have our being in you.

Remind us of our interconnectedness.

Forgive us when we add to the brokenness of our world.

(*Name people and communities in need of prayer*.)

Help us to tell your story of forgiveness, reconciliation, healing, and transformation to a world in need.

Great Spirit,

We pray to you,

as we join with our siblings in faith from around the world, and throughout time,

in the words we were taught by Jesus.

#### Sing

“The Lord’s Prayer” (*Voices United* page 959)

#### Hymn

“All People that on Earth Do Dwell” (*Voices United* page 822)

#### Blessing

Live in the pursuit of Wisdom and

move in the rhythm of the Spirit

knowing that you are a beloved part of God’s creation.