



Tending to Creation

Activity for Sunday, September 27

Singing with Creation

INVITATION

This week, as we approach the final Sunday in our Season of Creation, it's time to celebrate! Take time this week to listen to the song Creation sings all around you; the wind in the trees, the birds singing, rain pattering on a roof, a purring cat or barking dog. Spend some time outside, see how many natural sounds you can identify. If you can, make a recording of the sounds around you and send it to Sarah (by Saturday at 2pm, for inclusion in worship). How can you join in the song of creation? Sing, hum, clap, add your own music to the world around you.

For reflection:

- What natural sounds do you hear often? Are there any that you notice every day?
- What natural music do you usually ignore? What sounds are you noticing for the first time?
- Are there any natural sounds that you find annoying or grating? Can you find a way to think of those sounds as part of the music of Creation?
- How do manmade sounds (sirens, traffic) add to or take away from the natural sounds around you?
- What would you notice about the music of Creation if you take away hearing? How do you experience the music with your other senses? Do you feel the chill of rain on your face? Do you see the leaves dancing to the rhythm of the breeze? Do you feel the vibration of a cat's purr or the pressure of a loud thunderclap?



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.



Celebration *of* Worship

September 20, 2026

God's Shalom for Our Common Home:

Walking in Wonder

Centering chimes

Prelude

***Call to worship**

One: Through rain and air, sunshine and soil,

All: God is steadfastly working for the flourishing of all.

One: As God cares for us, so God calls us to observe and trust earth's processes

and to align our human activities with God's intended purpose for our common home.

Together, let us embrace God's vision as our own.

All: Let our worship lead us to a new purpose, to an ancient promise, to lasting shalom.

***Gathering Hymn #182** "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Welcome and Prayer

Children's story and children's offering for the Tanzania College Scholarship Fund

Congregation sings as children come forward (Voices Together #512)

Presentation of 3rd Grade Bibles

Scripture Isaiah 55:10–11; Matthew 6:25–34

Tending to Creation Action & Prayer

***Response Hymn #806** "Called by Earth and Sky"

Prayer (*based on Psalm 65:9–13*)

One: God calls us back again to join the dance of creation –

to circle around in the rain and swing with the seasons.

All: You renew the earth continually, and all creation sings of your abundance.

Sermon

***Response Hymn #177** "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Congregational sharing and prayer (*text prayers to Sarah Zabel*)

Prayer & Offertory (Ushers will pass the offering plates).

Introduction of visitors

Work of the church (*please come forward to the mic to make your announcement*)

***Sending Hymn #539** "God Speaks to Us in Bird and Song"

***Benediction**

**Stand in body or in spirit. Children are invited to wave the worship ribbons during the hymns.*

Note: Because worship is participatory and not a performance, instead of applauding please show appreciation for preludes, offertories and special music in other ways, such as ASL, silent applause, saying "Amen" or thanking musicians later.

We welcome, without exclusion, all who seek God's love and grace...

You are welcome here, inclusive of gender, race, country of origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual identity, socioeconomic status, family status, past imprisonment, education, citizenship status and physical or mental abilities. We encourage you to share in the rituals, fellowship and ministry of this congregation.

Hearing devices (T-coil and over-ear) and large print hymnals are available from the greeters.

Childcare (birth – preschool) is provided in the nursery downstairs.