

**SERVICE OF ROGATION**  
A Service of Blessing and Thanksgiving  
Caroline Food Pantry Garden  
19 June 2010

GATHERING

Celebrant: We gather today to ask God's blessing on the seed that has been planted, the soil that has been cultivated, and the gardeners who labor in the service of God and for the good of all. Let all here present yield high praise to our Creator that the year may be crowned with goodness. For from God comes every good and perfect gift: the rich soil, the smell of fresh-turned earth, the keenness of the winter's frost, the sound of the hoe, the blistered hand, the sweat of the brow, the skill of those who cultivate, the beauty of a row, the flourishing of plants – all reveal the mind of the Creator. Blessed be God's gifts, and holy God's works.

HYMN

Forest Green

1. As those of old their first fruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield; so we today our first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land, of farm and market, shop and home, of mind, and heart, and hand.

2. A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give; to make our life an offering to God that all may live; the Church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true: a world redeemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.

3. With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to thee to serve thy cause and share thy love with all humanity. O thou who gavest us thyself in Jesus Christ thy Son, help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

Celebrant O Creator God, with your breath you created light and darkness.  
People **And it was good.**  
Celebrant By your word, you created the heavens.  
People **And it was good.**  
Celebrant You created the dry land of earth, and the waters of the seas.  
People **And it was good.**  
Celebrant By your word, you called forth growing things: plants, fruit, trees.  
People **And it was good.**  
Celebrant You created the sun and the moon to order the days and nights.  
People **And it was good.**  
Celebrant You created the living creatures in the waters and the living creatures of the air.  
People **And it was good.**  
Celebrant You created the living creatures of the land: cattle, and wild animals; everything that moves upon the land.  
People **And it was good.**  
Celebrant By your word, you created humankind – both female and male – to care for the earth and all that is over, on and in it. And to these new creatures, you gave everything that you had made.  
People **And it was good.**  
Celebrant God be with you.  
People **And also with you.**  
Celebrant Let us pray.  
Creating God, you have made our world and all that is in it. We give you thanks for the glories that you have presented to us as stewards of this earth. We ask for your guidance as we enter a new season of growing, that we may work the land carefully and with the love of your creation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
People **Amen**

READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Reader A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.  
For to everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
People **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY The Very Rev. Craig Swan

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Let us pray to the God who has created us and all that exists in this world, saying: Creating God, make us your faithful stewards.

Leader We pray for those people in the world who go hungry every day, for the children who have not known the taste of bread. Creating God,  
People **make us your faithful stewards.**

Leader We pray for those people in our community who do not have enough to eat and for the ones who are not able to eat nutritionally balanced meals. Creating God,  
People **make us your faithful stewards.**

Leader We pray for the governments around the world that they may make good and wise decisions regarding food for their peoples. Creating God,  
People **make us your faithful stewards.**

Leader We pray for the ones who till, plant, and care for the land so that there will be enough for all to eat. Creating God,  
People **make us your faithful stewards.**

Leader God, you call us to exercise good stewardship over the land. You call us to care for the land with love and compassion. Help us to answer your call.

Help us to tend the land in ways that will make it last, to grow crops that do not damage the land, to engage in sustainable agriculture.

Creating God,  
People **make us your faithful stewards.**  
Leader Giver of good gifts, we give you thanks that we are able to come before you with our petitions. We ask for your good favor in response to each of these, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Celebrant Let us share this peace with one another. The peace of God be with you.  
People **And also with you.**

#### BLESSING OF ROGATION ELEMENTS

*Process to one corner of the garden, singing*

**Jesu, Jesu,  
fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbors we have from you.**

#### Prayer for Seeds

Celebrant We pray for the seed, a gift of God's creation.  
People **Creating God, you have given seed to the sower and bread to the people. Nourish, protect, and bless the seeds, which your people have sown in hope. By your loving and bountiful giving, may they bring forth their fruit in due season. Amen.**

*Process to second corner, singing*

**Jesu, Jesu,  
fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbors we have from you.**

#### Prayer for Soil

Celebrant We pray for the soil, a gift of God's creation.

People Giver of life, we give you thanks that in the richness of the soil, nature awakens to your call. We praise you for the smell of freshly tilled earth, the beauty of a cleanly cut furrow, and a well-plowed field. We ask that you help us to be good stewards of this land. Amen.

*Process to third corner, singing*

Jesu, Jesu,  
fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbors we have from you.

Prayer for Water/Rain

Celebrant We pray for the rain, which waters the earth, a gift of God's creation.

People Sustaining God, we receive the fruits of the earth from you. We give you thanks for the smell of the earth after rain, for its welcome cooling, and its necessary hydration for the land. We ask that the rain come as often as it is needed so that the crops may flourish and the coming harvest be indeed bountiful. Amen.

*Process to the fourth corner, singing*

Jesu, Jesu,  
fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbors we have from you.

The Dedication of the Garden

Celebrant As the earth puts forth its blossom, or bushes in a garden burst into flower, so shall the Lord God make righteousness and praise blossom before all the nations.

Celebrant My boundaries enclose a pleasant land.

People **Indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O Lord our God, bless the hands that work in this garden, that they may find serenity and peace in their work. Bless those with grateful hearts who

receive the fruits of this garden, that they may come to know the abundance of your love. We ask this in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

People **Amen.**

*Process to the table, singing*

Jesu, Jesu,  
fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbors we have from you.

THE EUCHARIST

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath.

People **We praise you, O God.**

Celebrant Generations bless your faithfulness; through the water, by night and day, across the wilderness, out of exile into the future.

People **We bless you, O God.**

Celebrant We give you thanks for your Son; at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.

People **We thank you, O God.**

Celebrant In the night of betrayal, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and

for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Celebrant Holy things for holy people.  
People **Amen.**

*Share the bread and wine. All are welcome to receive.*

#### POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in want and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
People **Amen.**

#### BLESSING

Celebrant God's blessing be with you,  
Christ's peace be with you,  
Spirit's outpouring be with you,  
now and always.  
People **Amen.**

Hymn - sung as a canon Singt dem Herren  
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord,  
O sing the honor of his holy Name,  
give him glory evermore.

*We will conclude the liturgy by sharing a meal.  
Those who are able are invited to do some work in the garden.*

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Liturgy  
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Music  
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Inspiration  
Hillerleiturgia - The Blog  
<http://www.hillerleiturgia.com/RogationProcession.pdf>

Web of Creation  
Ecology Resources: Transforming Faith and Society  
<http://www.webofcreation.org/Worship/services/rogation.htm>

Synod Resource Center  
[http://www.synodresourcecenter.org/wma/worship/occasional/other/0017/rogation\\_sunday.html](http://www.synodresourcecenter.org/wma/worship/occasional/other/0017/rogation_sunday.html)

Center for Theology and Land  
<http://www.ruralministry.com/Rogation%20Service%2005%200424.pdf>