



Season of Creation

The Season after Pentecost (called Ordinary Time in some churches) is a long season, stretching almost half of the year from Trinity Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost) until the beginning of Advent (May 22 – November 20, 2016).

In recent years, partly as a way to break up this lengthy season but more to invite Christians to focus on the biblical mandate to be stewards of the world that God created, some churches observe a “Season of Creation” beginning in September. The website www.seasonofcreation.com explains part of the rationale this way: “In the seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter we celebrate the life of Christ. In the season of Pentecost we celebrate the Holy Spirit. Now, in the season of Creation, we have an opportunity to celebrate God, the Creator.”

The recent initiative originated with Rev. Dr. Norman Habel, a Lutheran minister in Australia, although earlier attempts to observe a season of creation have been around since the middle of the 20th century. Several denominations have embraced and endorsed this season, urging their churches to use or adapt the lectionary readings and worship resources available at the website. In a pastoral letter supporting the season, the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines refers to Christians caring for creation as “the ultimate pro-life issue.” How can we care for the world that God has made? The themes for 2016 are:

- **September 4** – Ocean Sunday
- **September 11** – Fauna and Flora Sunday
- **September 18** – Storm Sunday
- **September 25** – Cosmos Sunday; Social Justice Sunday (Australia)
- **October 2** – Blessing of the Animals
- **October 4** – St. Francis of Assisi Day

Getting to know the neighbors

Several years ago a sitcom became popular in Canada. Called *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, the show revolved around a group of Muslims who set up a mosque in the basement of a local church in a small Western Canadian community. Against this backdrop, all sorts of dilemmas of culture shock, confusion, and misunderstanding made for limitless laughter – and a few poignant life lessons as well.

Little Mosque reminds us of the importance of getting to know our neighbors. We know that we live in a society that is increasingly rich in its diversity. When we reach out in hospitality to others, we learn about their traditions as we share our own.

Several Jewish holy days fall in the month of September.

- **October 2-4** is Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year
- **October 11-12** is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement
- **October 16** is the beginning of Sukkot, the Festival of Booths

The holy month of Ramadan begins on September 13. During this time, Muslims fast each day from sunrise to sundown.

September 2016

- Sunday, September 4, 2016**
- Sunday, September 11, 2016**
- Sunday, September 18, 2016**
- Sunday, September 25, 2016**



QUOTES & COMMENTS

As a university student hurried to her two-hour final exam in chemistry she encountered one of the campus chaplains in the hallway. She immediately stopped him and asked, "Will you pray for me at 4 p.m.?"

"Of course," said the chaplain. "But why do you want me to wait until then?"

"My two-hour chemistry exam begins at 3 p.m. and I'd like an hour to see if I can do it on my own."



Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life.

– Confucius



There are obviously two educations. One should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live.

– James Truslow Adams



Labor without dignity is the cause of misery; rest without spirit the source of depravity.

– Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Sabbath*



Everything in nature, the sum total of heaven and of earth, becomes a temple and an altar for the service of God.

– Hildegard of Bingen, *Illuminations*



EDITOR'S CLIP SHEETS

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We are only visitors here in this part of Creation. We are guests of the one who owns this Creation. We are always to keep in mind that we can own nothing here, not even our own lives. So the purpose of life then is not to acquire possessions but to honor the Creator by how we live.

– Arthur Solomon, *There Is No Middle Ground*



Science and religion no more contradict each other than light and electricity.

– William Hiram Foulkes



Life is a tragedy for those who feel; and a comedy for those who think.

– Chinese Proverb



Work . . . is complex. Through it we can redeem or we can destroy; we can liberate or enslave.

– Matthew Fox



Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.

– The Dalai Lama



Abandon the search for God and the creation and other matters of a similar sort. Look for God by taking yourself as a starting point. Learn who it is within you who makes everything his or her own and says, "My God, my mind, my thought, my soul, my body." Learn the sources of sorrow, joy, love, hate . . . If you carefully investigate these matters you will find God in yourself.

– Monoimus, early Christian teacher



Nothing worth doing can be accomplished in a single lifetime.

– Reinhold Niebuhr



God has been active in every culture, in every religion, in every place on the earth, breaking down the walls of hostility that separate us from each other.

– The Rev. Keith Wright



Book of Timothy



Most of the instruments we have developed to promote peace and justice . . . have come into existence as result of the caring and determined efforts of a few individuals who took themselves and their values seriously.

– Derek Evans, former Deputy Secretary General of Amnesty International



A morning prayer

So far today, God, I've had a productive day: I haven't gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent. I haven't cursed, sworn, or had any wicked or evil thoughts. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed and from then on I'm going to need all of the help I can get. Thank you. Amen.



One Sunday morning, a preacher announced to the congregation, "This morning I have prepared three versions of my sermon. I have a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour. So, let's take up the collection and see which sermon I'll deliver."



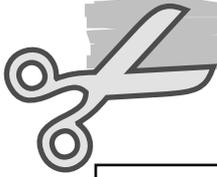
We are all pencils in the hand of God.

– Mother Teresa of Calcutta



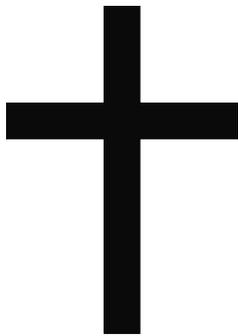
If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded.

– Maya Angelou, American poet

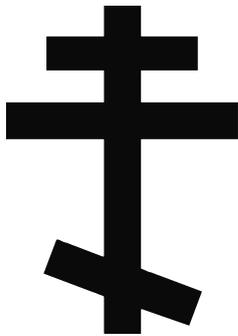


The cross of Christ

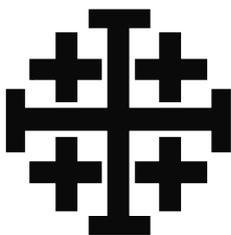
One of the most recognizable symbols in the world is the cross. It appears in all sorts of forms and in all sorts of places. Several countries use it on their flags, such as Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and others. People often associate it with health and healing, most notably because of the International Red Cross society. Some people wear crosses as jewelry and use them to decorate their homes. And, of course, many Christian churches adorn their buildings with a cross of some kind or are built in the shape of a cross.



Perhaps the most common version is the Latin cross. In Roman Catholic churches it often appears with the body of Jesus on it and is called a crucifix, emphasizing the death of Jesus. When the cross is empty it emphasizes the resurrection of Jesus. Both are important symbols.



This version of the cross is most often associated with churches in the Russian and Eastern Orthodox traditions. It may be closest in appearance to the cross on which Jesus was crucified (although that cross probably had other pieces of wood on the sides to support it). The small piece at the top represents the sign that Pilate ordered placed over Jesus' head and the piece at the bottom represents where Jesus' feet were nailed to the cross.



The stylized Jerusalem cross symbolizes the good news about Jesus spreading out to all of the corners of the earth and God's love being equally for all people. Some people understand the four small crosses to represent the gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Decorating a cross

In the later 20th century, Christians in El Salvador and other parts of Latin America began to create crosses that told stories. Using bright colors, they would paint wooden crosses with pictures from the Bible and from their own lives, often connecting the two.

In many instances, deep meaning was painted into the pictures. Like Jesus telling parables, the people creating the crosses embedded several layers of meaning about their lives during a time of persecution and oppression. When Christians in other countries saw the crosses they drew connections between the biblical stories and the situations of the Salvadorans and others. These crosses became powerful ways of witnessing to the Christian faith and connecting faith to real life.

You may wish to create a cross in this style. Draw a cross shape on paper and decorate it with pictures using markers or paints or by cutting apart photos or pictures from magazines. What story do you want to tell?



Table grace

Blessed are you,
creator God,
ruler of the universe;
we have shared your bounty,
and through your goodness
we live.
Amen.



At the Zoo

Help the girl find her way to the gift shop where she is meeting her friends.



Word Scramble

Look up Proverbs 13:1 in your Bible and use it to help you unscramble this message.

A I E S W H L D I C E L V O S
 E I N C I S L I P D U T B A
 F S F C E O R O S D E O T N
 I T N E S L O T U R K E E B

Proverbs 13:1

Answer: A wise child loves discipline, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.



I L L U S T R A T I O N S

September 2016

September 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Telegram from the Pastor



September 2016



Time Talent Treasure

**SEPTEMBER
2016**



BOUTIQUE



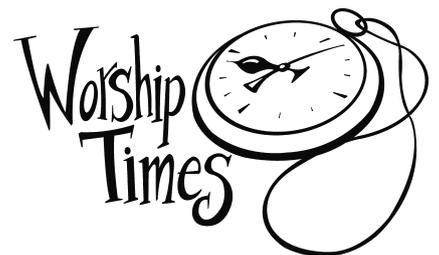
Christian Unity



Welcome New Members



Food Shelf



Car Wash

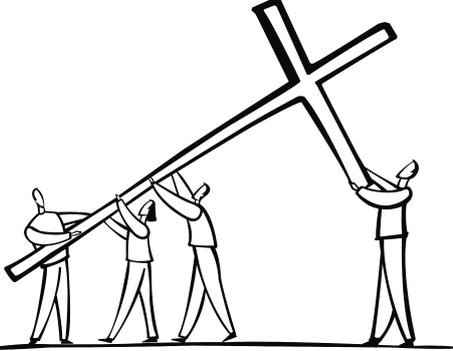


Labor Day



I L L U S T R A T I O N S

Invite the marginalized.
Luke 14:13

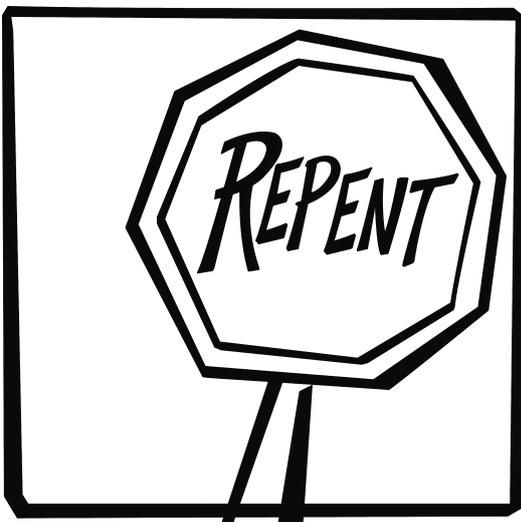


Carry the cross and follow me.
Luke 14:27

I have found the sheep that was lost.
Luke 15:6



No slave can serve two masters.
Luke 16:13



REPENT



To God, be honor and
glory forever and ever