

# **An Ecumenical Prayer Service**

**Saturday, September 24, 2022, 3:00 PM**

**West Raleigh Presbyterian Church**



**Listen to the Voice of  
Creation**

**Heal the Earth...Our Home**

# Heal the Earth....Our Home

## INTRODUCTION

Tibetan Chimes

Monica Kleimeyer

The Fellowship of the Least Coin Story

CWU in Raleigh/Wake Board Members

Pat Long: The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement for peace, justice, and reconciliation. Through this movement, women around the world strive to be in solidarity with each other and are reminded to pray and work for peace.

Mary Ann Blum The idea for the FLC emerged as a vision from God to Shanti Solomon of India. Shanti was part of the Pacific Mission Team, a group of seven women from different countries that traveled throughout Asia in 1956. The mission was organized by Dr. Margaret Shannon on behalf of the women of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America (PCUSA). On this mission, Shanti heard stories from Asian women who had experienced abuse and trauma during the Second World War. Due to unfavorable diplomatic relations between India and South Korea at the time, Shanti was refused a visa to South Korea. So, she stayed in the Philippines and prayed about her experiences and the stories she had heard.

Jean Porter: When the team met her in the Philippines, Shanti shared her vision of Christian women praying for peace to transcend every national boundary and human-made division. Shanti wanted all Christian women to pray for peace, justice, and reconciliation in their own lives and throughout the world and to set aside a coin as a token for each prayer. She proposed that all women give the “least coin” of their currency so that women of all socioeconomic status could be given opportunities to be generous and participate in this peacemaking.

Emily Sprague: She challenged the Christian women of Asia and the women from PCUSA to combine their efforts and resources to launch this project of justice, peace, and reconciliation. The team accepted Shanti’s challenge and the FLC was born. Later in the service, you will have an opportunity to bring an offering of your least coin. The International Committee of the FLC publishes a service appropriate for use worldwide, focusing on global care of the earth, with suggestions that it be used during this season. This service combines elements of the FLC service with the Season of Creation service which Monica Kleimeyer will describe for you.

The Season of Creation

Monica Kleimeyer

Tibetan Chimes

Monica Kleimeyer

**PRELUDE***George Brabazon*

Alison Arnold, Flute

As we signal coming together, we bring forth examples of God's creation.

Examples carried by members of EFP:

Monica Kleimeyer - Sun/Fire – Candle

Tom Dowd Wind/Air - Feathers

Martha Ellington - Rain/Water – Pitcher of water

Rob Coffin - Earth/Trees and Fruit – Apples in wooden bowl

**WELCOME**

Alice Stanford

We gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all creatures! Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

Words from Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century

**GREETING**

Alice Stanford

Greetings in the name of our God who is good:  
whose love endures forever.

Greetings to you, sun and moon, you stars of the southern sky:  
give to our God your thanks and praise.  
Sunrise and sunset, night and day:  
give to our God your thanks and praise

Greetings to you, mountains and valleys, grassland and scree,  
glacier, avalanche, mist and snow:  
give to our God your thanks and praise.

Greetings to you, kauri and pine, rata and kowhai, mosses and ferns,  
Baobab, fynbos, yellowwood, and aloe:  
give to our God your thanks and praise.

Greetings to you, dolphins and kahawai, sea lion and crab,  
coral, anemone, pipi, and shrimp:  
give to our God your thanks and praise.  
Greetings to you, rabbits and cattle, moths and dogs,  
kiwi and sparrow and tui and hawk:  
Elephant, lions, rhinos, and giraffes, ostrich, sheep, cattle  
Scorpion and dung beetle:  
give to our God your thanks and praise.

Greetings to you, women, and men,  
Elders and children, women, and men,  
Diverse cultures of this rainbow land:  
Typists and teachers, cleaners, and clerks,  
learners, jobseekers, TV and sports' stars,  
All who care, who love and who pray,  
Who laugh and learn, who rest and who play.  
give to our God your thanks and praise.

A New Zealand Prayer Book/He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa and Lynn Pedersen

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Pat and Paul Kelly, Liturgists

**Liturgist:** And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and gathered waters God called "seas." And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. The land produces vegetation: plants bearing seeds according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good!

**People: Thank you God, our creator of land and ocean which are the sources of our food and livelihood. To the soil that yields vegetables, fruits, trees, flowers, plants, and the ocean which is the source of marine resources. All that we see around us, big or small, living, or non-living, every shape, every color, are all your creations.**

**Liturgist:** Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So, God created humankind, in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

**People: We praise and thank you God, our Creator of humanity and of the Earth!**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

Soloist – Aracely Alcalá-Lopez

## Canticle of the Sun

Marty Haugen

The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
And all creation is shouting for joy!  
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,  
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!

Praise for the sun, the bringer of day,  
he carries the light of the Lord in his rays;  
the moon and the stars who light up the way unto your throne!

The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
And all creation is shouting for joy!  
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,  
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!

Praise for the wind that blows through the trees,  
the seas' mighty storms, the gentlest breeze;  
they blow where they will  
they blow where they please to please the Lord!

The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
And all creation is shouting for joy!  
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,  
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!

Praise for the rain that waters our fields,  
And blesses our crops so all the earth yields;  
From death unto life her mystery revealed  
Springs forth in joy!

The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
And all creation is shouting for joy!  
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,  
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!

Praise for the earth, who makes life grow  
The creatures you made to let your life show;  
The flowers and trees that help us to know  
The heart of love.

The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
And all creation is shouting for joy!  
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,  
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!  
Sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!

## GUIDED MEDITATION

**Alice Stanford**

Remember the fruits of the Earth, our sowing and harvesting.

Remember morning dew, babbling brooks, waves on the shore, walks on the beach.

Remember trees, deer and animals of the forest, plains, and tundra.

Remember rain refreshing the thirsty earth, enabling our gardens to flourish.

Remember the life, dignity and connectedness of all animals and humans with special concern for the poor, who are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change .

You created land and trees., animals and all living creatures on earth.

We are destroying the forests and animal habitats through poisons and logging.  
The voices of the birds, insects and forest dwellers are silenced.

You created the wonders of the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, corals.

The oceans are warming and as they drown in plastic, creatures voices are being stilled.  
Help us care for the oceans, the land and these forests.

Mother Earth, our sister, you sustain and govern us, still we plunder the earth's resources.

We have silenced the voices of indigenous people - protectors of the Earth who have been killed by land grabbers, mining companies and oil companies.

Many are the voices of our sisters and brothers who have been silenced by flooding, hurricanes, drought, fire or war, as the earth's warming brings destruction.

May we listen to the voices of our brothers and sisters, and learn to treasure and protect the web of life. Creation is speaking to us, but their voices have been silenced by the roar of our greed.

Forgive us, Creator God, for the human activities which have overpowered the weather and caused destruction of our environment.

## **MEDITATION**

**Alice Stanford**

*Now let us meditate in silence about our responsibility for the Earth, our home.*

Nature can survive without us human beings, but we cannot, without nature. We human beings have let you down, O God! We ask for your grace and forgiveness...

And now, we say, "Let all the inhabitants of the earth tremble!" We have heard the wailing and witnessed the ravaging of nature. We have seen and heard the weeping of the exploited and oppressed in the name of development. We are ready, and we are now crying out for justice! Strengthen us, O God we pray, to commit to work with each other to restore justice to the Earth, our home.

## **PRAYER**

**Alice Stanford**

Let us continue in prayer  
Let us pray for an end to the  
Waste and desecration of God's creation  
For access to the fruits of creation  
To be shared equally among all people

And for communities and nations to find sustenance  
In the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us.

**Almighty God, you created the world and gave it  
Into our care so that, in obedience to you,  
We might serve all people:  
Inspire us to use the riches of creation with wisdom,  
and to ensure that their blessings are shared by all;  
That, trusting in your bounty, all people may be  
Empowered to seek freedom from poverty, famine, and oppression. Amen.**

*Prayer from jesuitresource.org*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Psalms 96: 1-3; 10-13

**Ren Martin**

Sing a new song to the Lord!  
Sing to the Lord, all the world!  
Sing to the Lord and praise him!  
Proclaim every day the good news that he has saved us.  
Proclaim his glory to the nations,  
his mighty deeds to all peoples.  
Say to all the nations, "The Lord is king!  
The earth is set firmly in place and cannot be moved.  
He will judge the people with justice."  
Be glad, earth and sky!  
Roar, sea, and every creature in you.  
Be glad, fields, and everything in you!  
The trees in the woods will shout for joy  
when the Lord comes to rule the earth.  
He will rule the peoples of the world with justice and fairness.

**REFLECTION ON CARING FOR OUR HOME, THE EARTH**

**Ren Martin**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

*Inisheer*

**Alison Arnold**

**OFFERING OF FLC LEAST COIN OFFERINGS**

**Julie Taylor**

Least coins are collected from individual women all over the world. The total is divided into grants for projects serving the needs of women and children on every continent. A few examples of how the funds were used in 2020 and 2021 are:

- A brickmaking machine in Zambia so women could rebuild demolished homes.
- OB/GYN exams in Serbia to detect breast and cervical cancer.
- Sewing machines and fabric for women in Zambia to sew 600 face masks.

- Julie describes how the NFWM used a grant In the US to address gender-based violence in the fields where migrant farmworkers labor.

As you bring forward your least coin, pray for reconciliation and know this token will multiply blessings where it is needed most.

## **PRAYER FOR THE FLC MOVEMENT**

Let us pray:

*Loving Creator, we come into your presence with deep gratitude for the longing and discontent that we feel. Thank you for giving us ears to hear cries for justice, hearts to feel with those who are oppressed, and hands and feet to do something about it.*

*Be with us on this journey to justice, peace, and reconciliation. When we're afraid, teach us how to face our prejudices. When we're weary, remind us of the miracles of whispered prayers and least coins.*

*Loving Creator, help us to love like you and create anew the world you so love. Amen*

## **CALL TO COMMITMENT**

Please join in a responsive reading as printed in your program:

### **People:**

Let us renew our sense of the earth and all life.  
 We join with the earth and each other  
 To bring new life to the land  
 To restore the waters  
 To refresh the air.

### **Women:**

We join with the earth and each other  
 To renew the forests  
 To care for the plants  
 To protect the creatures.

### **Men:**

We join with the earth and each other  
 To celebrate the seas  
 To rejoice in the sunlight  
 To sing the song of the stars.

### **Women:**

We join with the earth and each other  
 To create the human community  
 To promote justice and peace  
 And the integrity of all creation.

### **Men:**

We join with the earth and each other  
 To remember our children  
 And the generations to come



That they, too, may inherit the earth  
We join with all creation as one loving mystery,  
For the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.

*Adapted from United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) Only One Earth*

**CLOSING HYMN**

*Song of Healing*

tune: *Morning Has Broken*

**Led by Aracely Alcalá-Lopez and Alison Arnold**

Healing is flowing, deep in the waters  
Flowing from Eden, flowing from old  
All through creations, God sends forth waters  
Ocean of healing, all for the world.

Healing is rising, fresh with the morning  
Healing is rising, bursting with grace  
Come, our rich healing, deep in creation  
Heal earth's deep wounds and rise in this place.

Healing is offered, leaves from the life tree  
Healing is offered nations at war  
Come, wounded healer, torn by the violence  
Rise from the grave, bring peace to our shore.

Healing is given, flows from forgiveness  
Healing is given, flows from our faith  
Christ, give us heart to love your deep healing  
Living forgiveness, even in death.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**Monica Kleimeyer**

Adaptation of The Lord's Prayer

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

Adapted from The New Zealand Book of Prayer|He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa.  
This version of the Lord's prayer was influenced by Maori theologians

**THE COMMUNITY BLESSING**

**Monica Kleimeyer**

**People: We see God around us. We see God within us. We give thanks to our Creator.**

One: Let us show the caring nature you have instilled within us by greeting each other as a sign of God's justice of peace, love, forgiveness, and grace. The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.

**People: And also with you.**

One: You are invited to care and share peace with your neighbor and speak a word of peace to the land in which you gather, and the creatures who share this common home.

*Adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honoring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA*

**BENEDICTION**

**Ren Martin**

May God who established the dance of creation,

Who marveled at the lilies of the field,  
Who transforms chaos to order,  
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church  
To listen to the voice of all creatures,  
That reflect God's glory in creation.

*from the CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme*

**Worship Service Leaders**

<p><b>Church Women United of Raleigh/Wake County</b></p> <p>Patricia Long, Pullen Memorial Baptist Church Mary Ann Blum, West Raleigh Presbyterian Church Jean Porter, Fairmont United Methodist Church Emily Sprague, West Raleigh Presbyterian Church Julie Taylor, National Farmworker Ministry</p>	<p><b>Earth Friendly Practices Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle</b></p> <p>Pat Kelly, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Paul Kelly, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Alice Stanford, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Tom Dowd, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Monica Kleimeyer, Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral Emily Sprague, West Raleigh Presbyterian Church Martha Ellington, Pullen Memorial Baptist Church Rob Coffin, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church</p>	<p><b>Guest Speaker – North Carolina Council of Churches</b></p> <p>Ren Martin, NC Interfaith Power and Light</p> <p><b>Musicians</b></p> <p>Alison Arnold, Flute Aracely Alcala-Lopez, Soloist</p>
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