



At a Glance – Season of Creation and Pentecost 2 2020

At a Glance – Season of Creation and Pentecost 2 2020 is also available in the Planning folder. The personal reflection is also provided separately as a text file in the [Planning folder](#).



Date	Sept 6, 2020	Sept 13, 2020	Sept 20, 2020	Sept 27, 2020	Oct 4, 2020	Oct 11, 2020
Liturgical date	14th Sun after Pentecost 23rd Sun in Ordinary Time Proper 18 (23) Season of Creation 1	15th Sun after Pentecost 24th Sun in Ordinary Time Proper 19 (24) Season of Creation 2	16th Sun after Pentecost 25th Sun in Ordinary Time Proper 20 (25) Season of Creation 3	17th Sun after Pentecost 26th Sun in Ordinary Time Proper 21 (26) Season of Creation 4	18th Sun after Pentecost 27th Sun in Ordinary Time Proper 22 (27)	19th Sun after Pentecost 28th Sun in Ordinary Time Proper 23 (28)
Title	Forest Sunday	Land Sunday	Wilderness/Outback Sunday	River Sunday	Words for Living	Living as a Liberation Community

LECTIONS	(The focus in the age-level materials is in bold.)
Genesis 2:4b–22	Genesis 3:14–19; 4:8–16
Psalms 139:13–16	Psalms 139:7–12
Acts 17:22–28	Romans 5:12–17
John 3:1–16	Matthew 12:38–40
Joel 1:8–10; 1:17–20	Romans 8:18–27
Psalms 18:6–19	Matthew 3:13–4:2
Revelation 22:1–5	Matthew 1:9–13
Genesis 8:20–22; 9:12–17	Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20
Psalms 104:27–33	Psalms 19
Revelation 22:1–5	Philippians 3:4b–14
Matthew 28:1–10	Matthew 21:33–46
Exodus 32:1–14	Exodus 32:1–14
Psalms 106:1–6; 19–23	Philippians 4:1–9
Philippians 4:1–9	Matthew 22:1–14

Emphasis for worship, learning, and serving

Forest Sunday calls us to reconnect with our relationship with the community of trees, plants, and fungi that sustain our breath and make our lives livable.

We think of land as a character who witnesses us in our kindest and most brutal moments and holds the pain of the world, and we listen and observe as land teaches us how to continue to grow – how to heal.

We hear whispers of how the wilderness transformed Jesus, see how the wilderness inspires Joel and the psalmist, hear the graining of creation, as if in labour, and sense the presence of God breathing with it, bringing wilderness/outback/bush to life.

On River Sunday, we witness God's interaction with creation through water and are challenged to take seriously the need to respect the power of water and preserve its ability to offer life.

In ten words from Moses, we glimpse a world where all patterns of human living are grounded in the rule of love.

We gather around readings that centre around conflict between fear and bold faith and consider when we, like the people who assembled around a golden calf, miss the mark.

Personal reflection

You might send weekly e-mails to people on your e-mail list throughout Season of Creation and Pentecost 2, posting each week to your congregation's social networking site, or adding to your bulletin.

When Paul proclaims the one God – creator of all – and reminds us of our connection to God through creation, we can specifically think about the forests and trees that give us breath.

Pay attention to your everyday interactions with creation – from the air you breathe to the trees outside your window, to the food you eat.

The writer of Psalm 139 uses the landscape to explain God's presence at all times and in all places. We are reminded that creation is a way to experience this presence but also a way to break or do harm to our relationship with God.

Listen to or read the news, paying special attention to stories that talk about land; for example, development, disputes, conservation, displacement, or issues related to borders, and cultural or national identity. Pray for those caught in these news stories.

Most have experienced wilderness, either as a literal image, a physical place, or a spiritual experience where we feel separated from God. The challenge for us is to find union with God in both physical and spiritual experiences of wilderness by caring for creation and caring for our spiritual lives.

Look at pictures of the wilderness or outback – from online, the local library, photos. Where do you see God in these places?

Water is vital to sustaining life – all of creation depends on it. In John's vision, the water of life quenches thirst, the tree of life provides nourishment, and its leaves heal the nations. This might sound contrary to the stories of pollution, hunger, and war that we see in the world.

Visit a body of fresh water. Imagine God's waters of healing and renewal flowing over you and the places in creation that are hurting.

The ten words given to the people of Israel were intended to direct how people would live with each other and God. These words help us to focus on living lives transformed by God.

Seeking a god that was tangible and concrete, the people of Israel built a golden calf. There are times today when we feel alone and in need of a physical presence to guide, comfort, and accompany us. However, it's easy to focus on a relationship, an event, or the latest fad or gadget instead of focusing on God.

Avoid unnecessary purchases, and donate the money you save.





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Planning



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Date	Oct 18, 2020	Oct 25, 2020	Nov 1, 2020	Nov 8, 2020	Nov 15, 2020	Nov 22, 2020
Liturgical date	20th Sun after Pentecost 29th Sun in Ordinary Time Proper 24 (29)	21st Sun after Pentecost 30th Sun in Ordinary Time Proper 25 (30)	All Saints Day	23rd Sun after Pentecost 32nd Sun in Ordinary Time Proper 27 (32)	24th Sun after Pentecost 33rd Sun in Ordinary Time Proper 28 (33)	25th Sun after Pentecost 34th Sun in Ordinary Time Proper 29 (34)
Title	Known by Goodness and Mercy	A Prophetic Vision's Power	On the Right Road	Door Shut or Open?	Rejecting Fear – Embracing Joy	Do You See Me?
Lections (The focus in the age-level materials is in bold.)	Exodus 33:12–23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10 Matthew 22:15–22	Deuteronomy 34:1–12 Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8 Matthew 22:34–46	Revelation 7:9–17 Psalm 34:1–10, 22 1 John 3:1–3 Matthew 5:1–12	Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25 Psalm 78:1–7 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 Matthew 25:1–13	Judges 4:1–7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 Matthew 25:14–30	Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 Psalm 100 Ephesians 1:15–23 Matthew 25:31–46

Emphasis for worship, learning, and serving

Moses experiences the profound afterglow of God's presence, and we are comforted in the assurance that God is at the core of our being and we are known by the Holy Mystery that is at the heart of everything.

A vision of freedom and promise, rather than a life turning out exactly as expected, gives Moses hope and inspires us with a vision of life and a new beginning that was intended as a blessing for all.

On this All Saints Day we are reminded of the saints who have gone before and encouraged to travel the long-trodden road toward God's love, justice, and liberation.

A story about lamps that are maintained reminds us that there is nothing casual about living as a witness to God's liberation and justice.

Investing ourselves spiritually, emotionally, and physically in sharing God's love and embracing the joy found in trusting the one to whom we lift our eyes, we move toward Reign of Christ Sunday.

On Reign of Christ Sunday, we are challenged to see today's world through the lens of God's transcendent love and justice.

Personal reflection

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Moses asks for proof of God's presence – to see what God looks like. As shown in Moses' encounter with God, we continue to live in the mystery of God and experience God in the heartbeat of life.

As the people of Israel draw closer to God's land of promise, they grapple with the loss of their prophetic leader, Moses, and embrace their new leader, Joshua.

Jesus asks us to re-think, to re-imagine, what the world has taught about the rich and the poor, the haves and the have-nots, the powerful and the powerless. It's up to us to be the liberators for those oppressed by society's notions.

A story about lamps and oil is a lesson about the importance of nurturing our faith and relationship with God. When we feel disinterested or even bored with faith, we are called to continue to seek God and practice God's love. Our daily actions reflect "keeping the faith," and can be the oil that fuels our lamps.

Three servants make choices about how to invest the "talents" left in their care. Our faith lives are a series of choices. If we choose to be content and content, we might fall into behaviours and patterns that don't put God's ways first.

Throughout this season, we've heard stories of how God desires for us to live – closer to God and closer to one another. The choice is ours.

Continue to add to a list of examples of compassion that you see around you.

Start each day by naming one choice you will make to reflect God's love in the world saying, "I will..." (Examples: "I will be patient with the co-worker" or "I will give lunch to the homeless man outside my office.")

Do at least one thing that will nurture your faith each day.

Look closely at the way the media and pop culture portray the "blessed" in today's world. For every news item you read about society's blessed find a story about Jesus' blessed.

Season of Creation, Pentecost 2 2020

