

The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew
OUR LITURGY UNFOLDED: THE SEASON OF CREATION
OCTOBER 15th TO NOVEMBER 29th

Just what IS the Season of Creation? Are we the only place that celebrates this season?

We have been celebrating the Season of Creation for 26 years! If you do a Google search, you will see that many parishes throughout the world celebrate the season of creation in one of several formats and at various times during the Church Year. Our Season of Creation helps us focus on restoring our unity with God and with each other. It is a vision of human beings of all races, backgrounds and walks of life in local communities and among the nations of the earth, living together in love and peace with justice for all. Canon Casson reminded us that "As disciples of Christ, we are called through our Baptismal Covenant, to be instruments for the healing of our broken world. This work of healing begins with our own personal selves, and extends into our homes, neighborhoods, communities and into the whole world. During the Season of Creation, we explore some aspect of life on this planet as it currently is, present a vision of that aspect of life when it is healed, and explore ways that we as individual Christians and as a congregation may be God's hands for reconciliation; building on our own new commitments to personal prayer and work in some concrete way for the healing of the planet and its peoples." During the Season of Creation, much of the text in our liturgies is contemporary and reflective of SsAM's view on the use of inclusive (or expansive) language. You will also notice that the readings are from many different sources including the Bible and many contemporary writers.

We start with "In the beginning" when all was a void, so you will notice how stark the sanctuary is. There are no altar flowers and the participants are dressed in black cassocks. Our intention is to embrace the theory of evolution as observable, scientific fact, while at the same time embracing the faith that a loving personal God is the instigator and at the center of an ongoing creative process who actively interacts within human history.

You will notice a shift in week 2 of the Season which shows Mother Earth as a tropical garden as we celebrate and embrace the whole of God's creation and the bible's vision of the earth in which all of God's creatures - human and other forms - live out our destinies in a peaceful and harmonious environment, sharing equitably the rich and sustaining resources of the planet. Our Globe banner is prominently featured in the sanctuary.

Week 3 considers The Human Family at a time when our planet is smothering under a pall of death-war, hatred, violence and murder, abuse, greed, and injustice. In the face of this, we are reminded that we need to hear again the Word of God proclaiming the goodness of creation. You will notice our SsAM banner, which was designed and constructed for our 10th anniversary in 2006.

Week 4 celebrates All Saints Day when we turn our attention to the "saints among us" beginning with a grand procession and the naming of saints by the members of SsAM. Our Weekly Vision includes our list of memorials provided by you as you remember the saints in your lives.

Week 5 focuses on world peace and our need to experience the healing and reconciling power of God through Jesus Christ and to be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, moving us to accept our roles as peacemakers in God's creation.

On the Sixth Sunday-Stewardship Sunday- we seek the commitment of our members to contribute our personal finances, prayers and energy for our shared ministries of worship, education, and service toward healing the division and brokenness in ourselves, our local communities and in the world.

On the Seventh and final Sunday, the Feast of the Reign of Christ (traditionally known as Christ the King Sunday), we praise the Cosmic Christ "through whom God was pleased to reconcile to God's self all things, on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.