Dear siblings in Christ,

“God is in the midst of the city … the Lord of hosts is with us” (Psalm 46:5-7).

Greetings to you in these first days after Pentecost. And what days they have been. We as the Worship team trust that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, continues to comfort and challenge, accompany and lead. Your congregations are likely living more fully into a pattern of online worship experiences or changed in-person worship as this pandemic continues. At the same time, we are called to recognize the systemic racism and injustice that continue to afflic our church and world.

With all of what is unsettling and overwhelming, we know that God is in the midst of God’s people. As the Worship Team, we have been working on resources that we hope are helpful to you in this time. In addition to the ELCA’s “Considerations for Returning to In-person Worship,” ecumenical guidance has recently been made available: “Resuming Care-filled Worship and Sacramental Life During a Pandemic.” An ecumenical group of theologians, scientists, physicians, pastors, and practitioners from the United Methodist, Episcopal, Pan-Methodist, and Roman Catholic churches, along with the ELCA and others, met in consultation and prepared this document, and we commend it to you.

For the first time this year, you were encouraged to mark the June 17 commemoration of the Emanuel Nine. Many of these resources can serve ongoing worship needs around racial justice. The piece “Lamenting Racism,” from the forthcoming All Creation Sings worship resource, could be especially useful surrounding difficult conversations.

In these times of grief, sorrow, fear, anger, and uncertainty, may the powerful Spirit of Christ fill you abundantly for the worship and work you are doing. God is with us.

Peace in Christ,
Deacon Jennifer Baker-Trinity
Program Director, Resource Development
All Creation Sings
Here in “Worship News” we have been highlighting All Creation Sings, the forthcoming liturgy-and-song supplement to Evangelical Lutheran Worship. A digital preview highlighting a sample of the liturgical content and assembly song is available on the All Creation Sings website. New on the ELCA Worship blog is a post titled: “All Creation Sings: Prayers, Thanksgivings, and Laments.”

A list of the included 200 hymns and songs is now available for viewing at AllCreationSings.

If you would like additional information or do not find the question you need answered, we invite you to contact the worship staff at worship@elca.org.

We enjoy hearing from you! It is a gift for those of us here at Worship to hear about the breadth and depth of worship practices around this church. If your particular context has a story, practice or resource to share with our staff, please send it to worship@elca.org. Although we cannot share everything we receive, we may contact you for further information.

Resources and Events

Resuming Care-filled Worship and Sacramental Life During a Pandemic

A new in-depth resource of safe practices for worship during the pandemic has been created by an ecumenical consultation. In addition to representatives from several denominations in the United States, the consultation team included scientists and medical professionals.
Was your summer conference canceled due to COVID-19? ALCM is providing Friday webinars on topics you might have experienced at your conference. We invite you to explore and register for the summer webinars. Special Summer-of-the-Pandemic rates are available today.

We Are Church, We Are Called 50 Years of Ordained Women 50 • 40 • 10

June 29 marks the 50th anniversary of opening the door to women’s ordination. It marks 40 years of women of color being ordained and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve freely. Through worship, Bible studies and forums, congregations are encouraged to hold commemorative events throughout the year!

Music that Makes Community

Music that Makes Community continues to explore online song leadership through Zoom and sharing music for virtual worship contexts. Webinars are offered monthly on a variety of topics. Information may be found on the MMC website. MMC’s Facebook page and Facebook group offer timely resources and music, as well as space for your questions and reflection.

Worship Resources from Augsburg Fortress