

SEASON OF CREATION 2019



Grant Jahnke

I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live. Deuteronomy 30:19

IN THE summer of 2018, Lodie Gilbert, community relations coordinator for the Centre for Whale Research in Washington State, witnessed at least five female whales gathered around a mother orca, known as J35, who had been holding the body of her dead calf above water for seventeen days. The whales swam “in a harmonious circular motion” at the water’s surface, for a least two hours, as if they were performing “a ritual or a ceremony” as darkness fell and the moon appeared. The Lummi Nation in Washington State refer to orcas as ‘relatives that live under the waves.’ Jay Julius, chair of the Lummi Nation, interpreted this behaviour as a clear message to humans: “Look at what you’ve done. Shame on you. Look at what we’re going through. We can’t survive any longer.” (Grief or Instinct? Bridgette Watson, CBC News, July 20, 2019 <http://bit.ly/orcagrief>)

This year, Redeemer’s *Season of Creation* begins on

Sunday, October 6 at 7PM with a service of music, sacred and secular readings and prayer. **The Rt Rev’d Andrew Asbil** will be our guest preacher, reflecting on this year’s theme, *How Shall We Then LIVE?*

The theme arose out of conversations following *We ARE the Earth*, the theme of last year’s *Season of Creation*. An awakening on many levels, we had reflected on our interconnectedness with all beings on Earth. In turn, these reflections led to the increased focus on the implications, individually and collectively, of using Earth’s finite resources as if they were infinite. In the months since, many parishioners have courageously expressed

their feelings of grief associated with the climate crisis, species extinction, pollution of water sources, destructive wild weather, extensive wildfires, and the loss of beloved habitats.

Throughout October, we will reflect deeply on our responses to the question, *How Shall We Then LIVE?* As Christians, we are people of hope, joy, peace, love and reparation. How do the Gospel message and the tenets of our faith help us to confront and to reconcile the profound existential issues of our time? In our liturgies, we’ll hear from The Rev’d Canon Steven Mackison on *Living in Gratitude*; Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat on *Living in Reconciliation with Creation*; and Nate Wall, Scholar-in-Residence, on *Living in Wonder*.

On **Wednesday, October 16 at 7PM*** Paul Pynkoski, will present and lead a discussion on “**Woods, Landscape, and City: The Prophetic Spirituality of Thomas Merton.**”

On **Sunday, October 20 at 10.45AM***, our church school and youth will host an all ages event to experience **birds of prey**, up close!

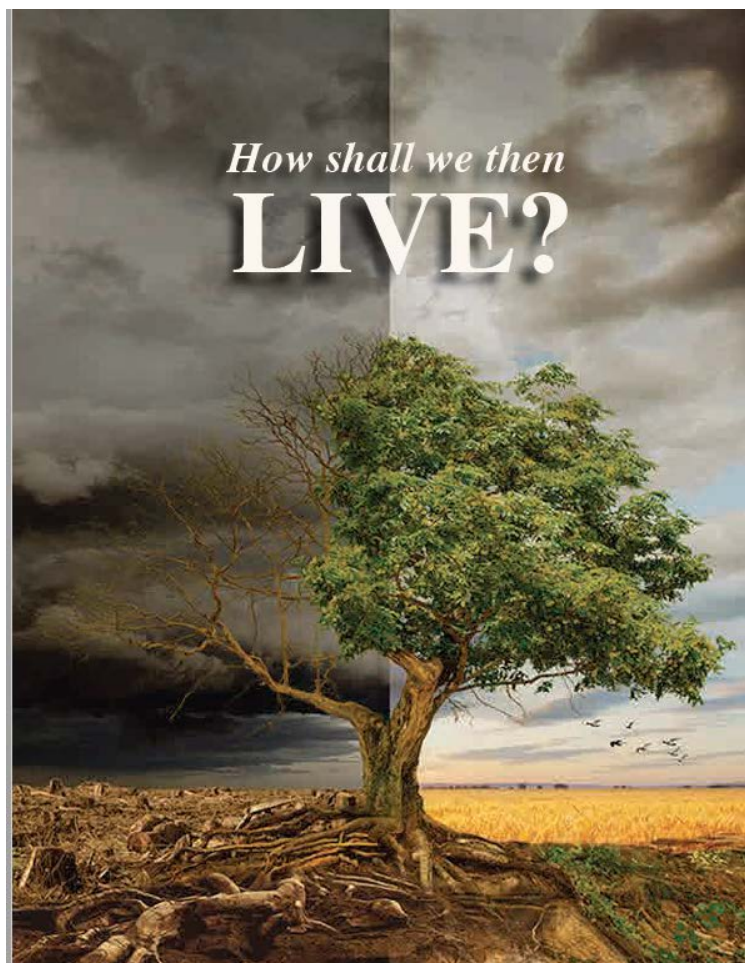
On **Wednesday, October 23 at 2 and 7PM***, we’ll screen the award-winning documentary, **RIVERBLUE**, which

portrays the global fashion industry’s ruinous impact on the planet. Lynda Young will host and lead a discussion on the implications of fashion consumerism.

**We ask that you register to participate in these events, so we have enough materials for all.*

Throughout *Season of Creation*, we will also experience the All Beings Confluence, a unique art installation inspired by the music of Carolyn McDade. We will be hosts to a sampling of these beautiful painted silk panels, many of which have been seen around the world. The words of Carolyn McDade describe the intention of the All Beings Confluence:

...I often wonder what it would be like if we dared to



love this life ~ the fragile and the vulnerable, the endangered, daring to be humble before the magnitude of our beginnings, daring to lean our species into a stubborn and pliant wonder, until reverence shines in all that we do ~ until we live an economics of reverence, a theology of reverence, a politics of reverence ~ until it permeates education, development, and health care, homes and relationships, arts and agriculture ~ a reverence for life, for planetary, social, and personal wholeness. (<https://www.carolynmcdademusic.com/>)

We encourage you to invite others to participate in the liturgies and events throughout *Season of Creation*, and to prayerfully consider what it would be like if we dared to love this life as if our very lives depended on it.

Season of Creation is hosted by Creation Matters, Redeemer's eco-spirituality group. We meet monthly to centre ourselves in creation; to learn about and reflect on the state of the world in which we live; and to bring more awareness of creation into the life of the church. All are welcome.



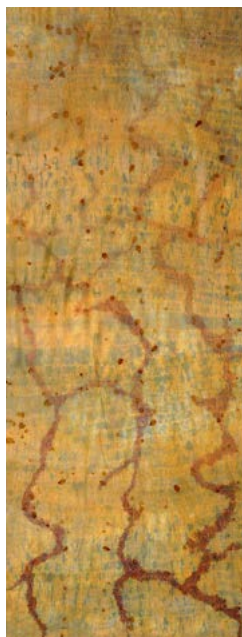
THE ALL BEINGS CONFLUENCE: A Celebration of Who We Are Together

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During our *Season of Creation 2019* at the Church of the Redeemer,

we will experience an installation of 36 silk panels from the All Beings Confluence. Martha Cole, the artist who resides and paints from her home in Disley, Saskatchewan, northwest of Regina is the curator of the Confluence. Martha describes the installation thus:

All Beings Confluence is a community-based, interactive arts project that was directly inspired by Carolyn McDade, a composer, social



activist and environmentalist whose music has sustained and nourished many over the decades.

All Beings Confluence is an ever-expanding installation created by many individuals. It consists of a series of long, narrow sheer panels, each representing a single living Being — perhaps a grasshopper, a bird, a tree, or blue-green algae that first provided our planet with oxygen. The completed panels are installed to fill a whole area and a single panel is never seen by itself. It is always “in community” with other Beings. Everyone is invited to walk amongst them—they move gently with the air currents, merging into different patterns & combinations of colour and light. For a brief moment we can feel ourselves as part of the vast, complex and interconnected community of creation.

All Beings Confluence began in 2010 when four Canadian prairie

women, Madeleine LePage, Martha Cole and Shannon Carson and Fenella Temmerman were learning the music for Carolyn's McDade's latest CD, *“Widening Embrace.”* By August 2011, when the CD was being recorded, 75 of the panels were installed at the Banff Centre of the Arts to offer support and inspiration to the singers who had gathered from across North America. Since then, *All Beings Confluence* has been seen in over 50 venues across Canada and the United States, including the Sisters of Earth Conference in Indiana, “Bioneers” in Detroit, and the Western Women's Conference at the Naramata Retreat Centre in Kelowna, BC. Over 17,000 people have moved through these Beings and the number of panels has increased to over 350! The installation is, indeed, a point of hope for us and for the planet and is a celebration of who we are together.

Source: <https://allbeingsconfluence.wordpress.com/>

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