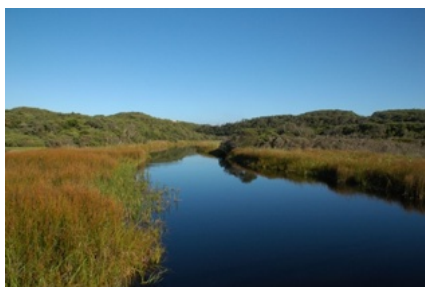




Surf Coast Uniting Churches

Sunday 27 September 2026

Seasons of Creation and All Age Worship



Everyday God

Earth's creator – everyday God
 Loving maker – O Jesus
 You who shaped us – O Spirit
 Recreate us – come be with us

Welcome

May the worship bless you

Acknowledgement

**This land is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people,
 traditional custodians of this land under God.
 We commit ourselves again to working for reconciliation in this land.**

Call to Worship

God of the mountains and valley, ocean and Streams, cities and suburbs

We open our hearts to you

Hear our prayers and hymns of praise

Fill us with hope

Gently heal our brokenness and touch our hearts with your love

Open our hearts to your presence and help us love you every day of our lives

Prayer of Confession

Gently heal our brokenness and touch our hearts with your love

Open our hearts to your presence and help us love you every day of our lives

For the beauty of the earth – **that we have not seen**

For the beauty of the earth – **that we have not preserved**

For the beauty of the earth – **that we have damaged or been silent at its destruction,**

Forgive us God

For the joy of human love – **that we haven't appreciated**

For the joy of human love – **that we damage by our actions**

For the joy of human love – **that we haven't offered**

Forgive us Lord, amen

God teaches us to raise a song of praise, not only with our lips open, but with widespread hearts and hands.

We are forgiven and given responsibility again – for the beautiful earth and human love. Amen

Prayers of Adoration and invocation

God of creation, you have called each one of us to journey with you

As we grow into children of God you fill us with hope and wonder, joy and awe

Your glory and grace in our lives fill us with gratitude

We give you our thanks and praise

Lord Jesus, you change our hearts and transform our minds

Your spirit helps us to care for our neighbours, near and far For one another as brothers and sisters in Christ

You fill our hearts with love

We give you our thanks and praise

Holy Spirit, you are with us on the journey

Leading and prompting us to love

To change our hearts

To serve God in the kingdom

You help us grow into children of God

You help us love one another by caring for God's creation

We give you our thanks and praise

Creator God, Lord Jesus and Holy Spirit, we give you our thanks and praise

And call on you Holy Spirit to come upon us and bless us

Hymn 182 Bring many names

Bring many names, beautiful and good,

celebrate, in parable and story,

holiness in glory,

living, loving God.

Hail and hosanna!

bring many names!

Readings

Exodus 17:1-7

17:1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

17:2 The people quarrelled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" 17:3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

17:4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 17:5 The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. 17:6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 17:7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Matthew 21:23-32

21:28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' 21:29 He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. 21:30 The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 21:31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 21:32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Puppet Madness – Butterflies



Romans 18-30 Rev Tina

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in ^[a] hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes ^[a] with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, ^[a] who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit ^[a] intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together ^[a] for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.^[s] ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Reflection – Rev Tina

In the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, amen

Romans 8:28 “We know that all things work together^[t] for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”

I recently read an academic paper about love of neighbour. It offered some insights about what it means to love our neighbour. Results of the study showed some people struggled to love one's neighbour.

The study summed up what's involved in loving one's neighbour, both near and far and found loving one's neighbour enhances society's ability to flourish.

Love of neighbour involves recognising the inherent dignity, worth and humanity of each person, grounded in or accompanied by us being created and loved by God. Love of neighbour comes from recognising the goodness, dignity and worth of others. Love of neighbour allows us to contribute to the needs of our neighbour, while preserving their dignity and respect. It means desiring to be present or united with our neighbour, while affirming their value and worth.



RCL

Today's readings concern faith and neighbours.

This painting shows two men, one who looks weighed down by his troubles and another who has raised his hand and is refusing to listen to his father. Both are invited by their father to work in the vineyard.

The father is God and the vineyard is the kingdom of God.

Why does one man turn away refuse to listen and why does the other look defeated?

Why did both change their mind?

One said no and went, the other said yes and didn't go.

The parable points towards belief in God and the desire to serve God.

Perhaps the defeated man feels unworthy to serve God. Yet somehow his mind is changed. Perhaps he has been hard on himself over choices he's made which were not life giving. Somehow the Spirit heals him and calls him, where he responds and experiences transformation and choose, God's way. Perhaps the man who said yes, was afraid, deep down, to listen to God in his heart and to respond, to believe and choose God's way.

We can only reflect and ponder about our own response to God.



RCL

In the story from Exodus the people are stubborn, complain and blame their leaders when things don't work out for them. There is no water. Perhaps they are afraid to turn to God for help.

The story from Exodus seems to be in stark contrast to this painting. I invite you to spend a moment contemplating the painting.

The people are loving their neighbour and God's creation.

One man is offering a cup of water to his neighbour, sitting on the horse.

Water gushes from the rock. Perhaps the water symbolises the presence of living water of the Holy Spirit, within people's hearts.

People are caring for God's creation, for another and fellow creatures.

The children are drinking from bowls of water and bowls of water are provided for the sheep, dogs, even the rooster. There are people in the distance caring for the fields and plants.

It's a gentle and beautiful portrait love and kindness shown to all neighbours, creation and creatures. It engenders hope in humanity's ability to love and care for God's creation.



RCL adapted

In the reading from Romans, Paul believes salvation is cosmic.

He believes we suffer with all of creation and experience labour pains as God shapes us and heals the decay and damage caused to creation.

Paul warns of intense suffering before there is intense joy.

God the midwife will redeem creation, by transforming our hearts.

When we respond to God's invitation to work in his kingdom, when we take the first step towards participation in God's plans for creation, we may even come to know all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

When we love God's creation, we love God and our neighbour, as ourselves

The Lord be with you

Attributes

Mironov, Andrei (Andrei Nikolaevich), 1975-. Parable of the Two Sons, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/57607> [retrieved September 21, 2026]. Original source: Please search Wikimedia commons for the source.
Bassano, Jacopo, approximately 1518-1592. Moses Striking the Rock and Bringing Forth the Water, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/49584> [retrieved September 21, 2026]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jacopo_da_Ponte_007.jpg.

June plays reflective music, about being loving - while we make a heart on the floor of the church out of shells, small stones, dried seaweed, plastic and glass picked up from the beach and flowers
(Notice will be in newsletter)

Activity – we stick flowers on cardboard hearts, and we form small groups and share stories about courageous people we know who have expressed great love to God, or people or creation

We spend time contemplating what we have created.

473 Community of Christ

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

Offering

Lord, as your Spirit moved over the deep, we thank you for the gift of water. The waters on the Earth, and under the Earth, the waters above us, and within us. Make us mindful of the care of all the planet's waters, that it may richly sustain life for us and for those who come after us. Accept the first fruits we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation and church for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the people

For peace and an end to suffering. For peace for the world and all creation. For those who are suffering.



RCL

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive
 those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Candle prayers



Song – Will you come and follow me if I but call your name

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
 Will you go where you don't know and ever be the same?
 Will you let my love be shown?
 Will you let my name be known?
 Will you let me life be grown in you
 And you in me?

Blessing

Go in peace, as people of God made Christ's own through the waters of baptism. In the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hymn 778 Shalom to you now

Shalom to you now,
 shalom, my friends.
 May God's full mercies bless you,
 my friends.
 In all your living and through your loving,
 Christ be your shalom,
 Christ be your shalom.

Elise Shoemaker Eslinger 1942