

repeat

*the*

SOUNDING

*joy*

**RMS ZOOMfest  
January 8-10  
2021**

# Welcome!

Welcome to RMS ZOOMfest 2021! In a community gripped by fear, the magi step on in, and there they find themselves overwhelmed with joy! It's there that they open their gifts before the infant Jesus, not for their own benefit but in the joy of being in the presence of Christ. In this time when fear has its grip on so much of our life together, how can we step into the middle of it and therein find our joy as we celebrate who we are and who we are being created to be in Christ?

Throughout the weekend we will be gathering to celebrate community, joy, and creation. Join us to sing, cook, pray, watch cartoons, create art, worship, explore creation, and talk together.

## Connecting

Participants can join either via ZOOM or Facebook Live. Join on ZOOM to directly interact with the session host and other participants. Join via Facebook Live to view the sessions as an audience member or to catch up on past sessions.

**ZOOM Session Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/98084210913>

**Facebook Live:** [www.facebook.com/rmselca](http://www.facebook.com/rmselca)

**Sunday Worship:**

**ZOOM Worship Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/93121810023>

*ZOOM worship has capacity for 3,000. Worship can also be viewed on Facebook using the link above*

## Cost

**Suggested donation:** \$25/household

*You may give using the Give button on the RMS website, selecting ZOOMfest in the "to" box.*

*[www.rmselca.org](http://www.rmselca.org). You may also send in a check with ZOOMfest in the memo line:*

*7375 Samuel Dr.*

*Denver, CO 80221*

All proceeds above and beyond events costs will benefit both **Augustana Arts City Strings** and the Indian **Pueblo Cultural Center**, so we invite your generosity! Thank you to the **ELCA Mission Investment Fund** for helping offset program expenses, allowing more support to these organizations.

# Schedule Overview

## Friday, January 8

**4:00pm:** Introduction of Augustana Arts City Strings and Pueblo Indian Cultural Center

**6:00pm:** Opening Songfest with Sky Ranch, Rainbow Trail, and Bishop Eaton

**7:30pm:** Happy Hour & Community Games: Peter Severson & Rev. Zach Parris

**9:00pm:** Evening Prayer: Rev. Kent Mueller

## Saturday, January 9

**6:00am:** Dwelling in the Word: Scripture & Photos with Rev. Michael Tekrony

**7:00am:** Family Cartoonfest

**8:30am:** Morning Yoga, Rachel Bass Guennewig

**10:00am:** Youth Songwriting Session, Tangled Blue

**11:30am:** Cooking Class, Rev. Rose Mary Sanchez Guzman & Cristo Rey Community

**1:00pm:** Mid-day Devotions and Outdoor Scavenger Hunt  
Creation Care Team and Bishop Gonia

**2:00pm:** Creating Art Together

**4:00pm:** Artist Demonstration: Pueblo Indian Cultural Center

**5:30pm:** Happy Hour with Bishop Gonia

**7:00pm:** Evening Concert: Augustana Arts

**8:00pm:** Evening Prayer and Epiphany Blessing

**8:30pm:** Bedtime Story with Bishop Gonia

## Sunday, January 10

**7:00am:** Prayerful Baking, baking together with Rev. Nicole' Ferry

**9:00am:** Synod ZOOMfest Worship

**10:15am:** Community Conversation: Young Adult Ministry/Young Adults in Global Mission

**1:00pm:** Community Conversation: Creation Care Team

**2:15pm:** Queer Prayers for Ordinary Moments, Revs. Asher & Leslie O'Callaghan

**3:30pm:** Community Music, Community Song, Daryl J. Walker

**5:30pm:** Community Meal, Adrian Miller, Colorado Council of Churches

**Friday, January 8**

**4:00pm: Introduction of Augustana Arts City Strings and  
the Pueblo Indian Cultural Center**

Join us to hear about the work of the Pueblo Indian Cultural Center from Dr. Beverlee J. McClure, Vice President of Cultural & Community Engagement. We will also introduce the work and mission of Augustana Arts City Strings.

**The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC)** is responsible for preserving and perpetuating Pueblo culture, and advancing understanding – by presenting with dignity and respect – the accomplishments and evolving history of the Pueblo people of New Mexico. It is located at the heart of nearly 80 acres of land owned by the 19 Pueblos and governed by the 19 Pueblos District (a sovereign government formed by the Tribal Councils of the 19 New Mexico Pueblo Communities) at the former location of the Albuquerque Indian School (1881-1982). The Center is comprised of museum and gallery space, a collection of murals and other Native arts and artifacts, a library, archives, an education department, a teaching kitchen/restaurant, and cultural programming and events – each celebrating the Pueblo culture of New Mexico.

**Augustana Arts Mission:** Through the power of music, Augustana Arts illuminates the soul and connects communities. In changing times, we honor the past and explore the future with a spirit of innovation.

**6:00pm: Opening Songfest**

**Guests:** Sky Ranch, Rainbow Trail, Bishop Jim Gonia, Rev. Janice Kibler, and Presiding Bishop Eaton

**7:30pm: Happy Hour & Community Games: Peter Severson & Rev. Zach Parris**

Grab a beverage and join us for a good-time social hangout! Peter and Zach will be your hosts and guides for an evening of games, weird trivia, #Lutherfacts, and special prizes.

**ABOUT YOUR HOSTS:** The Reverend Zachary Parris is an award-winning podcast host and occasional preacher. Peter Severson is an organist, breakfast chef, and noted anti-Twitter activist.”

**9:00pm: Evening Prayer: Rev. Kent Mueller**

**6:00am: Dwelling in the Word: Scripture & Photos with Rev. Michael Tekrony**

Settle in with your coffee or tea and join Rev. Michael Tekrony in a morning devotion as he shares his photography and a word to begin our day.

**7:00am: Family Cartoonfest with Revs. Valerie & Dan, and Cora Carlson**

Pour a bowl of cereal, cuddle up in your jammies, and join the Carlson family for some community cartoon watching and conversation led by daughter Cora!

**8:30am: Morning Yoga: Rachel Bass Guennewig, Daily Bread Yoga**

Grab a sturdy chair that you will use to stand behind, sit on, and use to stretch your legs! While everyone is welcome, it is most appropriate for those who can easily get up out of a chair and stand on your own.

**10:00am: Youth Songwriting Session, Tangled Blue**

**11:30am: Cooking Class, Rev. Rose Mary Sanchez-Guzman and  
Cristo Rey Community**

**1:00pm: Mid-day Devotions and Outdoor Scavenger Hunt with  
RMS Creation Care Team and Bishop Gonia**

Join on ZOOM for a short conversation about creation and spirituality. Then head outside or settle in front of your window for the scavenger hunt below.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD CREATION CARE TEAM SCAVENGER HUNT INSTRUCTIONS

- For a group scavenger hunt BINGO game, download the BINGO cards from the RMS Website
- Look out your window, or if the weather permits take a walk outdoors and find the following list of things. Take a photo if you can. You could also look for photos in books or magazines.
- When you find each thing, read aloud the ENVIRONMENTAL FACTS and the BIBLE VERSE associated with each one. These verses talk about the wonders of God’s creation or use examples from nature to teach us about God’s ways.
- When you finish, email your best photos with descriptions to [rmscreationcareteam@gmail.com](mailto:rmscreationcareteam@gmail.com). Include your name, where you took the photo, and what it is.
- We will post them to the Rocky Mountain Synod Creation Care Team’s Facebook page. Look for your photos and the photos of others on that page.

## LOOK FOR THESE THINGS

1. **Trees** “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” (Revelation 22:1-2) Tree shaded surfaces can be 20–45°F (11–25°C) cooler than surfaces in direct sun, helping homeowners reduce summer cooling costs. Trees reduce stormwater runoff by capturing and storing rainfall in the canopy and releasing water into the atmosphere through evapotranspiration. <https://www.treesaregood.org>
2. **Birds** “By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.” (Psalm 104:12) Birds perform invaluable ecosystem services necessary for our survival, like pollinating plants and dispersing seeds to help countless species of plants survive. They also eat between 400 million and 500 million metric tons of insects a year globally, reducing the need for pesticides. <https://www.nytimes.com/paidpost/allbirds/the-view-from-above.html>
3. **Clouds** “Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre. God covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.” (Psalm 147:7-8) Clouds are the key regulator of the planet’s average temperature. Some clouds contribute to cooling because they reflect some of the Sun’s energy back to space. Other clouds contribute to warming because they act like a blanket and trap some of the energy Earth’s surface and lower atmosphere emit. [https://www.nasa.gov/pdf/135641main\\_clouds\\_trifold21.pdf](https://www.nasa.gov/pdf/135641main_clouds_trifold21.pdf)
4. **Mountains** “From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.” (Psalm 104:13) Mountain lands provide a scattered but diverse array of habitats in which a large range of plants and animals can be found. <https://www.britannica.com/science/mountain-ecosystem>
5. **Plains** “Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar.” (Deuteronomy 34:1-3) The [ecology](#) of the [Great Plains](#) is diverse, largely owing to their great size. Differences in rainfall, elevation, and latitude create a variety of habitats including [short grass](#), [mixed grass](#), and [tall-grass prairies](#), and [riparian](#) ecosystems. The region is home to many animals, including [American bison](#), [pronghorn](#), [mule](#), and [white tailed deer](#), and birds such as ducks, hawks, and sparrows, along with many invertebrate species. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Plains\\_ecoregion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Plains_ecoregion)

6. **Sun** "From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised." (Psalm 113:3) Without the sun, Earth's land, water, and air would all be frozen solid! Life on earth would cease to exist. That's because almost all living things rely on the steady light and heat of the sun.  
<https://www.amnh.org/explore/ology/earth/ask-a-scientist-about-our-environment/how-does-the-sun-affect-the-environment>
7. **Moon** "You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting." (Psalm 104:19) The rise and fall of the tides on Earth are caused by the Moon. Small pools of water are often left behind among the rocks at low tide. They can include a diverse population of tiny plants and animals that serve as food for larger species. [www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/tide/](http://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/tide/)
8. **River or stream** "You make springs gush forth in the valleys; the rivers flow between the hills." (Psalm 104: 10) Many different types of fish, aquatic plants and invertebrates call a river their home, including trout and bass, cattails and algae, crayfish, insect larvae and snails. Rivers can be polluted from agricultural runoff and wastewater dumping. Since the water from a river eventually dumps into the ocean, those same sources end up also polluting the ocean.  
<https://www.factsjustforkids.com/water-facts/river-facts-for-kids.html>
9. **Rain** "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11) Most freshwater deposits on our planet come from rain. People could not survive without fresh water to drink. Rain is a key component in the Earth's water cycle. One droplet of water spends on average around eight days in suspension before falling back to Earth as rain.  
<https://www.factsjustforkids.com/weather-facts/rain-facts-for-kids.html>
10. **Snow** "God gives snow like wool and scatters frost like ashes. God hurls down hail like crumbs—who can stand before this cold?" (Psalm 147:16-17) Because snow is comprised of 90 to 95 percent trapped air, it is a great insulator. This is the reason many animals burrow deep into the snow during winter to hibernate. It is also the reason that igloos, that use only body heat to warm them, can be 100 degrees warmer inside than outside. <https://www.bbcearth.com/blog/?article=surprising-facts-about-snow>
11. **Evidence of any wild animal** "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. (Isaiah 11:6) Wildlife and the ecosystems are vital to human life. Nature contributes to human wellbeing culturally and spiritually, as well as through the critical production of food, clean water, and energy, and through regulating the Earth's climate, pollution, pollination, and floods. The Living Planet report demonstrates that human activities are destroying nature and threatening the wellbeing of current and future generations.  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/30/humanity-wiped-out-animals-since-1970-major-report-finds>
12. **Sheep, goats, cows, or any domesticated animal** "You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth." (Psalm 104:14) Replacing 10 percent of the global animal market with vegan alternatives could save nearly 14,672 square miles of land and save enough water for the entire state of New York for half a decade.  
<https://www.livekindly.co/environmental-impact-report/>
13. **Native plants** "Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed." (Exodus 3:1-2) Native plants help to maintain important pollinator connections and ensure food sources for wildlife; nonnative plants can outcompete these important native

species for habitat and food. <https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Environmental-Threats/Climate-Change/Greenhouse-Gases/Gardening-for-Climate-Change>

14. **Weeds** Jesus put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.” (Matthew 13: 24-26) Chemicals are often used to control weeds, but they contribute harmful toxins to the environment that negatively affect other plants and organisms, killing beneficial insects, and contaminating groundwater. <https://homeguides.sfgate.com/harmful-effects-weed-control-87167.html>
15. **Vines** “I am the vine you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.” (John 15:5) Wild grapes are relished by many species of birds and mammals. Several mammals eat the leaves, stems, and tendrils as well. Insects eat the leaves, including the larvae of some species of sphinx moths, which require grape-family plants as a food source. Lowland and riverside vines play an important role in bank stabilization, helping to prevent floodwaters from washing away soil. Where they form thickets, grapes and other woody vines create good habitat for birds to nest in and for mammals to hide. <https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/wild-grapes>
16. **Seeds** “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.” (Luke 17:6) Seed plants are the foundation of human diets across the world. Many societies eat, almost exclusively, vegetarian fare and depend solely on seed plants for their nutritional needs. A few crops (rice, wheat, and potatoes) dominate the agricultural landscape. Cereals, rich in carbohydrates, provide the staple of many human diets. In addition, beans and nuts supply proteins. Fats are derived from crushed seeds, as is the case for peanut and rapeseed (canola) oils, or fruits such as olives. <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-biology/chapter/the-role-of-seed-plants/>
17. **Fields of Crops** “One sabbath while Jesus was going through the cornfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them.” (Luke 6:1) Massive amounts of land, energy, and water are needed in industrial agriculture. Agricultural fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides are found to be associated with acute poisoning, toxicity and long-term chronic diseases. <https://www.iliedu.com/blog/industrial-agriculture-environmental-impacts/>
18. **Vegetable Garden** (or evidence of one from last summer) “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.” (Genesis 2:15) With only a 10 by 10-foot garden, one could grow 150 pounds of cherry tomatoes, which is the equivalent of keeping 27 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere. <https://theecoguide.org/whats-environmental-impact-growing-your-own-food>
19. **Flower Garden** (or evidence of one from last summer) “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.” (Matthew 6:28-29) Plants help to remove pollutants from the air. During the process of photosynthesis, the flower's leaves absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. Additionally, planting flowers can help hold soil in its proper place, reducing erosion and flooding. <https://usgreentechnology.com/environmental-benefits-gardening/>
20. **Lawns and Landscaping** “This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden.” (Ezekiel 36:35) Avoid using gasoline-powered tools such as lawn mowers and leaf blowers. Instead, use human-powered tools such as push mowers, hand clippers, and rakes or reduce the amount of lawn area that needs maintenance. Using a gasoline-powered mower for an hour pollutes 10 to 12 times more than the average car. <https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Environmental-Threats/Climate-Change/Greenhouse-Gases/Gardening-for-Climate-Change>
21. **Solar Panels** “The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.” (Psalm 121:5-6) Part of what makes solar energy so

sensible as a source of power is the fact that sunshine is so abundant. It is the most abundant natural resource on the planet, in fact, and it will not run dry (or dark) anytime soon. NASA got on board with solar energy technology earlier than most other organizations and agencies, using this power source for satellites and other orbiters in the 1950s.

<https://www.questionsanswered.net/article/10-fascinating-facts-about-solar-energy?ad=dirN&qo=serpIndex&o=740012>

22. **Rain Barrel** “If you will only heed his every commandment that I am commanding you today—loving the Lord your God and serving him with all your heart and with all your soul— then he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, and you will gather in your grain, your wine, and your oil.” (Deuteronomy 11:13-14) Collecting roof runoff in rain barrels reduces the amount of water that flows from your property. It is a great way to conserve water and it is free water for use in your landscape. <https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-rain-barrels>
23. **Compost Bin** “The trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield its increase. They shall be secure on their soil.” (Ezekiel 34:27) Compost reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. It can help aid reforestation, wetlands restoration, and habitat revitalization efforts by improving contaminated, compacted, and marginal soils. Compost provides carbon sequestration. Methane emissions from landfills are significantly reduced. <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/reducing-impact-wasted-food-feeding-soil-and-composting>
24. **Wind Energy** “No one has power over the wind to restrain the wind.” (Ecclesiastes 8:8) Harnessing power from the wind is one of the cleanest and most sustainable ways to generate electricity as it produces no toxic pollution or global warming emissions. Wind is also abundant, inexhaustible, and affordable, which makes it a viable and large-scale alternative to fossil fuels. <https://www.ucusa.org/resources/environmental-impacts-renewable-energy-technologies>
25. **Cemetery** “The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.” (Ezekiel 37:1-2) Conventional burials – embalming, funeral home viewing and placing a steel casket in a cement lined hole – result in the annual use of 77,000 trees and 4.3 million gallons of embalming fluid containing cancer-causing chemicals. <https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2016-03-04/green-burials-bring-awareness-to-environmental-concerns>

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:**

- Lutherans Restoring Creation [www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org](http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org) is a grassroots program designed to encourage the ELCA to incorporate care for creation into its full life and mission at all expressions – congregationally, synodically and nationally. Resources include a manual to “green” your congregation and the Energy Stewards program to help congregations reduce their energy use, cut costs and protect the environment.
- Creation Justice Ministries [www.creationjustice.org](http://www.creationjustice.org)
- Interfaith Power and Light [www.interfaithpowerandlight.org](http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org)
- Earth Ministry [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org)
- Green Faith [www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org)
- Energy Star for Congregations [www.energystar.gov/congregations](http://www.energystar.gov/congregations)
- All Creation [www.allcreation.org](http://www.allcreation.org)

**2:00pm: Creating Art Together: Megan Sawyer, CU-Boulder**



## **9:00am: Synod ZOOMfest Worship**

**ZOOM worship link:** <https://zoom.us/j/93121810023>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/rmselca](http://www.facebook.com/rmselca)

*As you prepare for worship today, please gather a bowl of water and a candle for part of the gathering. You will also need bread and wine/grape juice if you wish to participate in communion.*

**Prelude:** Christ the Servant, Louisville, CO

**As we gather, please share a word of hope or gratitude in the chat!**

What are you grateful for?

What are your hopes for 2021?

## **WE GATHER**

### **Call to Worship**

A new year has dawned and our God is made known from shore to shore

**Repeat the sounding joy!**

Our savior Jesus, born for the nations is Immanuel, God with us!

**Repeat again the sounding joy!**

Though the refrain of the world is often anger, grief, oppression, and despair

**We let our joy resound through the streets as we join them in bringing a true peace to our communities**

When fear threatens to fill our hearts

**We come as the magi and step boldly into fearful places. And we are met there by our God.**

So let us gather in joy that resounds in our hearts as we reflect on one year and look toward another

**Let us join heaven and nature and raise our song!**

**Song: Joy to the World**

### **Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

Rev. Libbie Reinking, Epiphany, Denver, CO

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

**And also with you.**

## **Candle-Lighting Litany...**

...As we gather as one body from the many and varied spaces and places within the Rocky Mountain Synod, we are reminded that we gather with the church throughout the world, with those we can see and those we may never know. The Holy Spirit makes us one in Christ, the Christ made known to the world by the light of a star, by a babe in the manger, by the words of the prophets, and by the love shown in God's people as we live that love in the world each day. Let us pray.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, thorough your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **WE HEAR THE WORD**

### **Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6**

Ellie Linden-Johnson, Peace, El Paso, TX

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

**Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12**

Rev. Kaila and Ilaria Armbruster, Shepherd of the Valley, Grand Junction, CO

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Sermon: Bishop Jim Gonia**

**Song:**

**WE ARE FED**

**Prayers:** From the 11 Conferences of the Rocky Mountain Synod

**Utah:** Rev. Christine Higuera-Street, St. Matthew's Taylorsville, UT

**Wyoming:** Rev. Nathan Keith, Trinity, Laramie, WY

**North Colorado:** Deacon Ro Fesser, Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center, Brush, CO

**Boulder-Broomfield:** Rev. Chad Kohlmeyer, Atonement, Boulder, CO

Rev. Kathy Armstrong, Cross of Christ, Broomfield, CO

**Metro West Mountain:** Rev. Jeff Carlson, Good Shepherd, Glenwood Springs, CO

**Metro West Metro:** Rev. Mandy Achterberg, St. Stephens, North Glenn, CO

**Metro East:** Rev. Barbara Berry-Bailey, St. Paul, Denver, CO

**Metro South:** Rev. Gordy Sandquist, Holy Spirit, Littleton, CO

**Southeast Colorado:** Rev. Carrie Baylis, First, Colorado Springs, CO

Rev. Dan Holt, Ascension, Colorado Springs, CO

**Border:** Rev. Diana Linden-Johnson, Peace, El Paso, TX

**North New Mexico:** Rev. Nicole' Ferry, Bethlehem, Los Alamos, NM

**Blessing of Our Spaces**

Rev. Kristin Schultz, All Saints, Albuquerque, NM

*We invite you to walk to a door.*

God of our comings and goings, and of staying in. Bless those who enter and exit through this door. May every day be a reminder that we are called into the world to proclaim the good news of your love in word and deed with everyone we encounter.

*We invite you to go to a window.*

God of creation, you care for the world you love so much. Give us eyes to see the wonders right outside our windows and hearts to live in ways that honor the earth and its resources.

*We invite you to a chair or bed where you find rest.*

God of all comfort, you wrap your peace around the hearts of the hurting and grant rest to the weary. May these places of rest in our homes be reminders of your presence and make us mindful of those whose have no place to rest their heads.

*We invite you to a table.*

God of all people, you gather us together around the food that nourishes our bodies and the company of one another that nourishes our spirits. Gather us in joy with the understanding that you are always the welcome guest at our tables. Help us see where there is lack on the tables of our neighbors and grant us hearts that never stop being generous to our siblings near and far.

**AMEN.**

**Great Thanksgiving: Bishop Jim Gonia**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks and praise to our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right our duty and our joy that we should at all times and all places give thanks and praise to you, Author of Redemption.

In the beginning you created life in outrageous diversity.

You made us all in your image,

Forming us in relationship,

Inviting us to join in your work of creation.

We praise you,  
For in times of Empire,  
You do not abandon the powerless.  
While kings were posturing in palaces,  
Your glory was revealed as an infant in a manger.

When we held back in fear and shame,  
You went wading into the murky waters of our lives.  
In Christ, you came to be baptized  
In this muddy river of humanity,  
Full-immersion into the chaos that floods the world.

Saying YES to us,  
You hold nothing back.

Now in this time and place  
The nations rage,  
Creation groans,  
Your church divides,  
It seems people everywhere are polarized.

And so your Spirit binds us together in communion  
Deeper than blood, stronger than creed.  
We become the communion that we receive.  
You show us home by a different road.

And so we join our YES with yours.  
Together with friends and strangers everywhere,  
Sinners and saints,  
On earth as in heaven,  
We join the unending chorus from which the morning stars began:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus  
gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

He took the bread, and gave thanks,  
broke it, and gave it to them saying,  
“Take and eat.  
This is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again after supper,  
He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink, saying  
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in taste and touch,  
Beyond all words can hold.

### **Lord’s Prayer:**

*You are invited to pray in the version or language of your heart.*

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.

*Please commune those in your presence with the words: “Body of Christ, given for you” as you give the  
bread and “The Blood of Christ, shed for you” as you give the wine or juice. If you are alone, Bishop Jim  
will commune you. After receiving the bread and wine you may respond “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.”*

*If you are not comfortable receiving communion in this way and you are fasting until we meet again,  
please know that your decision is honored, you are still a part of the body of Christ. You may pray this  
prayer:*

*Most high and holy God, pour out upon us your one and unifying Spirit, and awaken in every  
confession of the whole church a holy hunger and thirst for unity in you; through Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

## **WE ARE SENT**

### **Embodied Blessing**

Rachel Bass Guennewig, Daily Bread Yoga

People of God, do not be afraid to make known the coming of our God.  
Be bold, Christ is with you. May your heart be strengthened for the journey.  
Be loud; the angels sing with you! May your words be healing to those who hear them.  
Be understanding. May your heart be tender toward the fear in the world and hearts that ache.

Be persistent as magi in pursuit of a star.

And May the God who never gives up enliven your hearts to live out your baptism, in the name of the +Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

**Amen.**

**Closing Song:**

Go in peace. Live God's love in the world.

**Thanks be to God**

**10:15am: Community Conversation with Savanna Sullivan, ELCA  
Young Adult Ministry & Young Adults in Global Mission**

Join ELCA Program Director for Young Adult Ministry, Savana Sullivan for conversation and bring your burning questions!

**1:00pm: Community Conversation: Creation Care Team**

Members of the ELCA Creation Care Team will be leading a discussion on the article: **Reading the Bible with Care for Creation: An Essay by David Rhoads** which is available on the RMS website. Read the essay and join the discussion!

**2:15pm: Queer Prayers for Ordinary Moments, Revs. Asher & Leslie O'Callaghan**

**Supplies:** Paper and the writing utensils that most bring you joy.

Come create prayers and blessings that turn the conventional on its head. Queer pastors, Leslie and Asher O'Callaghan (and perhaps a friend or two) will lead us in an hour of writing prayers for ordinary moments in maybe some not so ordinary ways.

**3:30pm: Community Music, Community Song, Daryl J. Walker**

**5:30pm: Community Meal, Adrian Miller, Colorado Council of Churches**

You are invited to prepare a favorite meal, or a meal that is a family or cultural tradition, set your table, and join Adrian Miller for conversation around food and community.

**Adrian Miller** is a food writer, James Beard Award winner, attorney, and certified barbecue judge who lives in Denver, Colorado. Adrian received an A.B in International Relations from Stanford University in 1991, and a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1995. From 1999 to 2001, Miller served as a special assistant to President Bill Clinton with his Initiative for One America – the first free-standing office in the

White House to address issues of racial, religious and ethnic reconciliation. Miller went on to serve as a senior policy analyst for Colorado Governor Bill Ritter Jr. From 2004 to 2010, he served on the board for the Southern Foodways Alliance. In June 2019, Adrian lectured in the Masters of Gastronomy program at the Università di Scienze Gastronomiche (nicknamed the “Slow Food University”) in Pollenzo, Italy. He is currently the executive director of the [Colorado Council of Churches](#) and, as such, is the first African American, and the first layperson, to hold that position.

**Bibliography:**

[\*Soul Food: The Surprising Story of an American Cuisine, One Plate at a Time\*](#)

[\*The President’s Kitchen Cabinet: The Story of the African Americans Who Have Fed Our First Families, From the Washingtons to the Obamas\*](#)

*Black Smoke: African Americans and the United States of Barbecue*, will be published Spring 2021.