

## Early Childhood Tree Planting/Blessing Ceremony

The Rev. Jenni Ovenstone Smith

*Song: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*  
(the whole world, the sun and the rain, the flowers and the trees, everybody here)

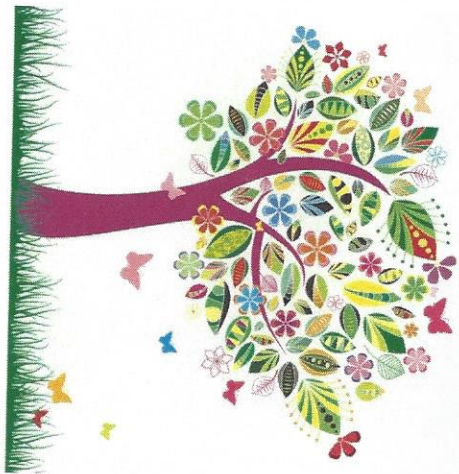
### Welcome

We have been given a very special gift and many people have been a part of it:

- Maryland Episcopal Diocese: Maryland Episcopal Environmental Partnership (Green Team) – Jim Truby
- Lutheran Synod's green team
- Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Part of a program called Celebrate Trees

**The Gift of Trees:** What do you notice?

*Song: We Are Thankful*



### The Blessing

Loving God, in the Garden of Eden you gave the man and woman trees to care for and soil to till. Thank you for this tree that has been given into our care, and help us to tend it with joy.

Bless our tree, we pray:

May the soil that feeds it be rich in nutrients to help our tree grow tall and strong ... and remind us of all that you provide to nourish us and make us healthy.

May the rain that falls on it be refreshing, that our tree might have a long life ... and remind us that you are always giving us a fresh start.

May the roots of our tree grow deep ... and remind us that you hold us safe and steady.

May its branches grow long and its canopy wide ... and remind us that you give shelter to every creature on earth.

May its trunk grow tall ... and remind us always to look up and trust you with all our hearts.

And may its blossoms and leaves bring us joy and wonder as we behold everything you have made.

May this tree, and our care for it, help all people who come onto St. John's campus know the beauty of your creation, give thanks for your love of every living thing, and honor the responsibility we share to care for the earth and its creatures.

### Birthdays Celebrations

*Song: Go Now in Peace*

## Lower School Tree Planting/Blessing Ceremony

The Rev. Jenni Ovenstone Smith

*Song: Come into God's Presence*

### Welcome

We have been given a very special gift and many people have been a part of it: Maryland Episcopal Diocese/ MEEP (Green Team) – Jim Truby; Lutheran Synod's green team; Chesapeake Bay Trust donated the tree – program called Celebrate Trees.

### The Gift of Trees

- + Bible – tree of life; like cedars; fig tree; faith; city of God
- + Mama Miti – trees to provide food; firewood; timber; medicine; clean water; protect animals; even ripen bananas. Symbols of peace with each other and creation.
- + Trees near us – clean air, shade and play, food, mental wellness.
- + As I pour water – symbol of our caring for this tree – name the hopes you have for the ways this tree will be a gift to us, to others, and to the earth (silently or aloud)

*Song: God Has Chosen Me*

### The Blessing

Loving God, in the Garden of Eden you gave the man and woman trees to care for and soil to till. Thank you for this tree that has been given into our care, and help us to tend it with joy. Bless our tree, we pray:

May the soil that feeds it be rich in nutrients to help our tree grow strong, and remind us of all that you provide to nourish us and make us healthy.

*Thaya nyumba, peace my people*

May the rain that falls on it be refreshing, that our tree might have a long life, and remind us that you are always giving us a fresh start.

*Thaya nyumba, peace my people*

May the roots of our tree grow deep, and remind us that you hold us safe and steady.

*Thaya nyumba, peace my people*

May its branches grow long and its canopy wide, and remind us that you give shelter to every creature on earth.

*Thaya nyumba, peace my people*

May its trunk grow tall, and remind us always to look up and trust you with all our hearts.

*Thaya nyumba, peace my people*

And may its blossoms and leaves bring us joy and wonder as we behold everything you have made.

*Thaya nyumba, peace my people*

May this tree, and our care for it, help all people who come onto St. John's campus know the beauty of your creation, give thanks for your love of every living thing, and honor the responsibility we share to care for the earth and its creatures.

*Thaya nyumba, peace my people*

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who creates, loves and sustains all things. Amen.

### Celebrations

*Song: Peace Before Us*