Elim Lutheran Church

Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 3:00 PM and
Sunday, May 31, 2026 at 10:00 AM
The Holy Trinity - Festival Choir

RECONCILING IN CHRIST

The Elim Express contains announcements and happenings at Elim. Use this QR Code to the right to read the Elim Express online. Just scan it with the photo app on your phone.

Welcome to Elim Lutheran Church

1) Accessible restrooms and an AED are located by the exit near the parking lot. An all-gender restroom is in the Sanctuary Balcony.

2) Elim belongs to the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). To learn more, visit https://www.spselca.net/

PRELUDE: *"Let the Sunshine In"* performed by the Brass

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Pastor: As we gather today, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of Indigenous people; the land of the Coast Miwok and Graton Rancheria. We remember that we share this land with other parts of God's good creation: Coast Redwoods, California Black Oak, Great Blue Heron, Egrets, Osprey, Hummingbirds, Sandpipers, Ochre Sea Stars, Red Abalone, Rainbow Trout, California Sea Lions, Western Fence Lizards, Salamanders, Red Tailed Hawks, Wild Turkeys, and Deer.

All: May we be good neighbors.

Pastor: We have come here seeking to worship the God of all Creation

All: We have come to stand on holy ground!

Please be seated

FESTIVAL CHOIR: "OH HOW GOOD IT IS"

POEM: "CREATION" BY, JAMES WELDON JOHNSON Pastor Kathryn

And God stepped out on space,
And he looked around and said:
I'm lonely—
I'll make me a world.

And far as the eye of God could see
Darkness covered everything,
Blacker than a hundred midnights
Down in a cypress swamp.
Then God smiled,
And the light broke,
And the darkness rolled up on one side,
And the light stood shining on the other,
And God said: That's good!

Then God reached out and took the light in his hands,
And God rolled the light around in his hands
Until he made the sun;
And he set that sun a-blazing in the heavens.
And the light that was left from making the sun
God gathered it up in a shining ball
And flung it against the darkness,
Spangling the night with the moon and stars.
Then down between
The darkness and the light
He hurled the world;
And God said: That's good!

Then God himself stepped down—
And the sun was on his right hand,
And the moon was on his left;

The stars were clustered about his head,
And the earth was under his feet.
And God walked, and where he trod
His footsteps hollowed the valleys out
And bulged the mountains up.

Then he stopped and looked and saw
That the earth was hot and barren.
So God stepped over to the edge of the world
And he spat out the seven seas—
He batted his eyes, and the lightnings flashed—
He clapped his hands, and the thunders rolled—
And the waters above the earth came down,
The cooling waters came down.

Then the green grass sprouted,
And the little red flowers blossomed,
The pine tree pointed his finger to the sky,
And the oak spread out his arms,
The lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the ground,
And the rivers ran down to the sea;
And God smiled again,
And the rainbow appeared,
And curled itself around his shoulder.

Then God raised his arm and he waved his hand
Over the sea and over the land,
And he said: Bring forth! Bring forth!
And quicker than God could drop his hand,
Fishes and fowls
And beasts and birds
Swam the rivers and the seas,
Roamed the forests and the woods,

And split the air with their wings.
And God said: That's good!

Then God walked around,
And God looked around
On all that he had made.
He looked at his sun,
And he looked at his moon,
And he looked at his little stars;
He looked on his world
With all its living things,
And God said: I'm lonely still.
Then God sat down—
On the side of a hill where he could think;
By a deep, wide river he sat down;
With his head in his hands,
God thought and thought,
Till he thought: I'll make me a man!

Up from the bed of the river
God scooped the clay;
And by the bank of the river
He kneeled him down;
And there the great God Almighty
Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky,
Who flung the stars to the most far corner of the night,
Who rounded the earth in the middle of his hand;
This great God,
Like a mammy bending over her baby,
Kneeled down in the dust
Toiling over a lump of clay
Till he shaped it in is his own image;

Then into it he blew the breath of life,
And man became a living soul.
Amen. **Amen.**

From God's Trombones by James Weldon Johnson. Copyright © 1927 The Viking Press, Inc., renewed 1955 by Grace Nail Johnson. Used by permission of Viking Penguin, a division of Penguin Books USA Inc.

FESTIVAL CHOIR: "HERE I AM, LORD" *(Congregation please join in as directed)*

Women/Treble Voices:
I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

All:
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Men/Bass Voices:
I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone,
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Festival Choir:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, L*or*d?
I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go Lord, if You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide, 'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go Lord, if You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart.

Oh, I will hold Your people in my heart

PSALM 8 *(Please read responsively)*

ALM: [1] O Lord our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

All: [2] **you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;**
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

ALM: [3] When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

All: [4] **what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,**
human beings that you should care for them?

ALM: [5] Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.

All: [6] **You have made them rule over the works of your hands;**
you have put all things under their feet:

ALM: [7] all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,

All: [8] **the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,**
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

ALM: [9] O Lord our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

FESTIVAL CHOIR: "GOD IS SO GOOD TO ME"

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 28:16-20

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had
directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. 18 And
Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to
me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit 20 and teaching them to obey everything
that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the
age."

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Be Thou My Vision" (Slane) performed by the Brass

Please be seated

FESTIVAL CHOIR: "SHOUT GLORY"

OFFERING PRAYER

ALM: Loving God,

All: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.

FESTIVAL CHOIR: "IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL"

FESTIVAL CHOIR: "THE CIRCLE OF LIFE"

Please stand as you are able

CLOSING PRAYER

God of mercy, grant us your peace.
Be our courage in times of fear.
And be our refuge in our time of need.
As we leave this sanctuary,
remind us that you go with us and will strengthen us with your love.
Embolden us with hope, and keep us mindful of your holy presence.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Please be seated

FESTIVAL CHOIR & CONGREGATION: "PRAYER FOR OUR TIME"

Festival Choir:

Our God, to Thee we pray.
Heal our nation, Lord, today
God of mercy, grant us courage.
Give us peace, give us peace, give us peace.

When evil draws its angry sword and seeks to sever freedom's cord,
Death and darkness shake our faith in God's unfailing pow'r to save,
Eternal Father, ever be our courage in the time of need.

When war is waged by faceless foes who battle peace with fiery blows,
When storms of hate and fear assail,
Our Father's mighty arm prevails,
Enternal Father, ever be our refuge in the time of need.

Congregation please join in:

There is no tyrant who can stand against our sure Defender's hand.
No threat or danger can defeat the strong and righteous Prince of Peace.
Eternal Father, ever be our fortress in the time of need.

Festival Choir:

Amen, amen, amen, amen.

SENDING

ALM: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "*This Little Light of Mine*" performed by the Brass

Thanks to our Festival Choir and Instrumentalists

Festival Choir

Director: Laila Schoenlein

Accompanist: Lauren Haile

Mary Gail Baker
Ben Barnes
Sue Barnes
Paul Behringer
Jarene Bell
Roderick Bell
Vanessa Brown
Chris Cella
Terry Church
Darby Ciampi
Mercedes Cooke
Shawn Dooley
Nancy Drelich
Don Duffala
Karen Ely
Rosemary Endicott
Terry Fraser
Dolores Frey
Stephanie Goodson
Ian Graff Labberton
Patrecia Graham
Paul Hammelton
Carol Harper
Edwin Hurd
Pamela Keller Hare
Tim Kellgren
Athena Labberton
Sarah Labberton
Richard Maldonado
Elizabeth Martin
Robin Merrill
Audrey Norman

Mark Norman
Vicki Olivas Navarro
Karen Pesutich
John Rathkey
Rich Rodkin
Lisa Sides
Clark Smith
Tori Tating
Jeff Tolman
Sylvia Verdu
RuthE Wells
Mary Wyrick

Instrumentalists

Todd Haile - drums
Phil Sorensen - bass
Kevin Unger - guitar
Simon Woodard - penny whistle

Rachel Aragaki - Brass
Doug Bates - Brass
Emmett Ely - Brass
Tom Hyde - Brass
Bob McGee - Brass

Next Week:

June 7, 2026 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Intro: Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the world.

Read Ahead: Hosea 5:15-6:6 / Psalm 50:7-15 / Romans 4:13-25 / Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Elim Worship Team

The Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson, Pastor ····· Presiding Minister
Robin Merrill ····· Assistant Lay Minister
Lauren Haile ····· Music Director
Erin Hetrick-Hohenner ····· Office Manager (Elim Express, Announcements)
Barb Villa ····· Bulletin Production
Richard Maxon ····· Bookkeeper
Paul Haile, Andy Hohenner, Kevin Prime, Maria Svinth ····· Tech Audio/Video

Special thanks to all our volunteers who helped with our worship service

Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson's Email - pastorkathryn@elimpetaluma.org

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