Good morning, Church. Today, look with me at Psalm 19, a song David has written for the choir director of the Temple. C. S. Lewis writes of it, “I take this to be the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world.” Family, this song is an outburst from someone caught up in spontaneous worship. At its core, David prays with his eye open: verse 1 declares the glory of God. Note that this line is given in present tense (present tense expresses perpetuation, unending occurrence). For all time, Creation reveals and declares the glory of God. This psalm is about worship, about God’s glory revealed and our response to it. God continuously reveals Himself to us in His world and in His Word. Think about that: We encounter the God of the universe in creation and in scripture. The God who made the Grand Canyon speaks directly to us in His Word. And as Paul notes in Romans 1:20, “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, *so that people are without excuse*.”

 Now, let me be clear. This observation in no way points us to “new age” beliefs—no crystals, no healing astrology, no synergy, no positive vibes, no karma. Our God is not “at one” with nature. He created nature. He is superior to it (\*1 Peter 3:15-16). In verse 7 of Psalm 19, David switches his focus from God’s glory in His Creation (verses 1-6) to His glory revealed in His Word, and he addresses how we respond to God’s glory (verses 7-14). When we truly behold His glory and His faithfulness, we are drawn inexorably to worship and repentance. The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul, giving us all things that pertain to life and godliness (\*\*2 Peter 1:3). In creation and His Word, God speaks, anchoring our emotional and spiritual response to His greatness and worth.

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\*1 Peter 3:25-26

15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

\*\*2 Peter 1:3

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

 Listen, Church. Worship is the reasonable response to an awareness of the presence of God. Adam Nesmith has said, “Responding to God’s glory with a life of worship is the greatest privilege of the Christian.” What does that look like? To begin with, it assumes that the believer trusts in the faithful, approachable presence of God. And worship is so much more than Sunday morning. It is routine submission, obedience, self-denial; radical, ordinary, everyday, self-denial and obedience—these characteristics testify and respond to the glory of God. These spiritual disciplines confirm the truth that we are created for Him. As David writes, “By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can discern their own errors?

Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression” (Psalm 19:11-14). David, we are told in scripture, is a man after God’s own heart, yet after encountering God’s glory in creation, he prays this prayer, a prayer of inventory, of response, of self-awareness, and awareness of God’s presence and His holiness.

 This prayer of David expresses a great need for a great savior. Here, clearly, David prays with his eyes and his heart open, honest in his awareness of the tendency of his heart to be prone to sin. Family, David’s God—Our God—is not just the God of creation—of the Milky Way, of the universe—but He is also the God who is intimate, understanding, forgiving, approachable, and involved. Our God, who created orchids and carved out the Grand Canyon, knows and fulfills our need for the saving grace of His Son. God sent His son to die in our place, that through Him and Him alone we can have eternal life.

 *Church, we look unto the skies and see the power of God; we look into the scriptures to see the person of God.* In Psalm 19, David asks God to speak to His soul, to reveal his weaknesses and temptations, his faults and sins, and prays for protection. With this request for God’s personal protection, David responds to God’s glory. And, Family, we should respond similarly. We should value God’s Word. Beholding His glory, we should respond honestly, with a humble, repentant heart. This repentant heart allows David and will allow us to see the magnitude of God’s grace in His creation, in His Word, and in our Savior. We need His presence desperately. And HE OFFERS IT FULLY!

Because of His personal concern for us, we can confidently anchor our emotional and spiritual response to God’s greatness and worth. We can choose life and hope in Him. Our response to His glory is to draw near with confidence. How are you responding?

How will you respond (\*Colossians 1:16)? We are created for Him. Let’s respond accordingly and worship or incomparable Creator with an obedient and submission life. Let us together be sanctified by His truth: “Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth (John 17:7). His glory is the fuel for our service. We are created by Him for Him, to bring Him glory.

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\*Colossians 1:16

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Passages in support of this message:

Hebrews 4:15-16

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Psalm 19

1 The heavens declare the glory of God;

 the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

2 Day after day they pour forth speech;

 night after night they reveal knowledge.

3 They have no speech, they use no words;

 no sound is heard from them.

4 Yet their voice[b] goes out into all the earth,

 their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,

 like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

6 It rises at one end of the heavens

 and makes its circuit to the other;

 nothing is deprived of its warmth.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect,

 refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,

 making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the Lord are right,

 giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant,

 giving light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is pure,

 enduring forever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm,

 and all of them are righteous.

10 They are more precious than gold,

 than much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey,

 than honey from the honeycomb.

11 By them your servant is warned;

 in keeping them there is great reward.

12 But who can discern their own errors?

 Forgive my hidden faults.

13 Keep your servant also from willful sins;

 may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless,

 innocent of great transgression.

14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart

 be pleasing in your sight,

 Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.