

July 28, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Order of Service

GATHERING

As followers of Jesus
we will love the Lord our God
with all our hearts,
with all our souls
and with all our minds.
And we will love our neighbors
as ourselves and serve them
in the name of Christ.
Matthew 22:37, 39

*Love God
Follow Jesus
Serve in Spirit*

If you are visiting with us, we welcome you and encourage you to sign the visitor card in the pew. Visitors are urged to leave their address, to receive a letter of welcome from the pastor and be placed on the newsletter email list, if desired.

PRELUDE *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* — arr. Roger Summers

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP Genesis 1:1-5

Leader: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

People: Then God said, "Let there be light" and there was light,

Leader: And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.

People: God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Leader: Let us worship God, the creator of heaven and earth!

At the Dawn of Your Creation

HYMN TO JOY (*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*)

At the dawn of your creation, God, you spoke, "Let there be light!"

You divided earth from heaven, you created day and night.

You made sunbeams dance with shadows, you created energy!

Peaceful evenings, bright tomorrows, all began with "Let there be..."

By your word, you formed creation: dry land, water, ocean breeze.

Soon there burst forth vegetation — plants with fruit, majestic trees.

Rain and snow and changing seasons, creatures filling land and sea —

God, your very good creation all began with "Let there be..."

When you made us as your children, sending us throughout your lands,

You commanded, "Have dominion —

care for earth; it's in your hands."

Yet we hurt this world you've given; we harm earth and sky and sea.

We forget it's your creation — you, who once said "Let there be..."

*Please rise in body or spirit.

At this joyful celebration, may we hear your word anew:
May we care for your creation, knowing it's a trust from you.
Just as daily there's a dawning, bringing light to all we see,
So we daily hear your calling — you, who once said, "Let there be..."

READING

The Earth is the Lord's

ST. DENIO (*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*)

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." Creation reminds us, O God, of your love.
By grace we are learning, as year leads to year, We're called to be stewards, your caretakers here.
Your rainforests nurture the world that we share. Your wetlands give animals shelter and care.
Your coral reefs cradle the life of the sea. You've shown us, in love, what your good world can be.
Too often, O God, we abuse your good earth. We fail to remember its beauty and worth.
We take from creation much more than we need, We threaten your world through indifference and greed.
May we be good stewards of all that you give, Protecting creation wherever we live.
May we be a church that renews and restores And lovingly cares for this earth that is yours.

READING

O God, You Made the Sabbath Day

TALLIS' CANON (*All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night*)

O God, you made the Sabbath day, Your gift, your law, your healing way.
You also made, within each heart A longing for this day apart.

READING

Sung Prayer of Confession: One Person's Sin Changed Every Life

WOODWORTH (*Just As I Am, Without One Plea*)

One person's sin changed every life; When Adam strayed, we too were lost.
The world soon filled with death and strife And every person bears the cost.
Not satisfied with what you gave, Your people sought to be like you.
Those early humans disobeyed — Their story is our story, too.
(Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness and Singing our Praises to God

Reader: Our Assurance of Forgiveness is John 3:16-17: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Let us sing in celebration of God's forgiveness!

One Person's Sin Changed Every Life (continued)

Then, God, in love you sent your Son, For as in Adam we did fall,
So through the faithfulness of One, Salvation was your gift to all.
O God, we've seen what death can do, And now with joy we know rebirth.
In Jesus Christ, you make us new And give your life for all the earth.

READING

Shades of Purple, Shades of Blue

DIX (*For the Beauty of the Earth*)

Shades of purple, shades of blue, green and yellow, orange, red —
Noah and his family, too, saw the rainbow overhead.
God, Creator, high above you displayed your sign of love.
Soon new life was springing forth, filling land and sea and air.
God, you chose to bless the earth with the promise of your care —
And your promised love extends far beyond our human friends.
In the rainbow, you were clear: every living thing has worth.
You love every creature here on this planet we call Earth.

God, forgive when we destroy gifts from you that bring you joy.
May your church begin to see in that rainbow high above:
We are daily called to be stewards of this world you love.
Since the earth is dear to you, may we treat it kindly, too.

Prayer (Unison)

Creator God, we hear the biblical story of an environmental disaster, brought on by the sins of people and nations. May it remind us that our actions have consequences. When we sin against you and harm your beautiful creation, we threaten the planet you have placed in our care. Yet the rainbow reminds us of your promise. You want what is best for the world. Since you love this world so much, help us to love it, too. Help us to take care of what you have made. Amen.

READING

Abraham Journeyed to a New Country

BUNESSAN (*Morning Has Broken*)

Abraham journeyed to a new country; Sarah went with him, journeying too.
Slaves down in Egypt fled Pharaoh's army; Ruth left the home and people she knew.
Mary and Joseph feared Herod's order; Soldiers were coming! They had to flee.
Taking young Jesus, they crossed the border; So was our Lord a young refugee.
Some heard the promise — God's hand would bless them! Some fled from hunger, famine and pain.
Some left a place where others oppressed them; All trusted God and started again.

READING

Old Abram Was Blest

LYONS (*O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!*)

Old Abram was blest and Sarai was, too, When God called their names and said, "I choose you!"
I'll give you descendants like stars up above — Too many to count, and a sign of my love."
That old couple laughed at what God might do. Was what they had heard impossibly true?
For they had no children to carry their name — Yet God promised nations would rise out of them.
God promised to them a life that was new: A new set of names, a new future, too.
They faithfully trusted — that husband and wife; Soon Sarah and Abraham found a new life.
O God, in your love, a whole nation grew; You called them to be a blessing for you.
You sent them, you send us, to be this world's light. Your promise still shines like the stars in the night.

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

READING

O God of Truth and Glory

AURELIA (*The Church's One Foundation*)

O God of truth and glory, in listening to your Word, We sometimes miss the story of voices seldom heard.
Forgive our poor attention to women who were there —
To those we hardly mention in scripture, hymn or prayer.
For Eve was Adam's partner, and Noah had a wife.
And Sarah laughed in wonder at how you changed her life.
Rebekah, strong and forceful, knew just what she would do.
And Rachel was resourceful, and Dinah mattered, too.
Young Miriam saved her brother; she found the boy a home.
And so the Pharaoh's daughter raised Moses as her own.
You called on countless women to work and serve and pray.
Lord, may we, too, be listening when you call us today.

OFFERING / READING

Joseph was His Father's Favorite

BEACH SPRING (*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*)

Joseph was his father's favorite out of all his family there,
And his brothers did not like it when he got his coat to wear.
It was different from the others — brighter, bolder than the rest.
So he bragged to all his brothers that his father loved him best.
Joseph's nights were filled with dreaming; in his mind, he'd always win.
Soon his brothers started scheming so they could get rid of him.
In a pit they took and threw him, then they sold him. Who could save?
To a land where no one knew him, he was taken as a slave.
Bought in Egypt, Joseph labored for a man named Potiphar.
In that house he soon was favored — once again, a rising star.
What went wrong? That star was falling — falsely charged and locked up tight.
In his dreams, he heard a calling in the middle of the night.
Joseph, dreamer, there in prison saw a famine on the way.
So his wondrous gift of vision set him free and saved the day.
When his brothers came in hunger, begging, "Help us! Give us food,"
Joseph told them, "Weep no longer! God intended this for good."
Soon the family reunited; so began new, joyful days.
And through Joseph, we're reminded God can work in wondrous ways.
God, we trust in you to guide us when we cannot see your plans.
Always, always you're beside us; all of life is in your hands.

READING

We're Children of God

LYONS (*O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!*)

We're children of God; we're welcomed and claimed. We're given new birth, renewed and renamed.
The world may not know yet to whom we belong, But we are God's children and love is our song.
We're children of God who takes away sin. In Christ we abide; our life is in him.
We offer forgiveness, seek justice and peace, And reach out to others, that love may increase.
We're children of God and so our delight Is living the life that's good in God's sight.
One day we'll be like him, transformed from above To sing for eternity God's song of love.

BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

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