

LENT 5 SUNDAY

March 21, 2021

Piano Prelude: Prelude in C major

J. S. Bach

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

¹⁹ “To you, O LORD, I cry. For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and flames have burned all the trees of the field. ²⁰ Even the wild animals cry to you because the watercourses are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness. (Joel 1:19-20)

¹² **Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love...**” (Joel 2:12-13)

We come to worship as those who are part of this earth and all life in it.

We come to worship as those who are instrumental in the destruction of this earth and the life in it.

We come to worship to regroup ourselves in our remorse and repentance, and also, our recommitment to change direction in our personal lives, to re-establish friendship with the earth that is a part of us.

We come to worship to encounter again the grace and mercy of God, and to experience again a love that is so abounding, it will not let go until we have found our way home.

ALL: Let us worship God together!

Hymn: “God in great love for us lent us this planet”

No. 719

soloists Elias Theocharidis and Shaun Alphonso with organist Bruce Nasmith

1. God in great love for us
lent us this planet,
gave it a purpose in time and in space:
small as a spark from the fire of creation,
cradle of life and the home of our race.

2. Thanks be to God for its
bounty and beauty,
life that sustains us in body and mind:
plenty for all, if we learn how to share it,
riches undreamed of to fathom and find.

3. Long have our human wars
ruined its harvest;
long has earth bowed to the
terror of force;
long have we wasted what
others have need of,
poisoned the fountain of life at its source.

4. Earth is the Lord's:
it is ours to enjoy it,
ours, as God's stewards,
to farm and defend.
From its pollution,
misuse and destruction,
good Lord, deliver us, world without end!

Prayer of Approach, Confession & The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: Morning has broken

words by E. Farjeon; Gaelic tune

soloist Joanne Nasmith with vocalist and guitarist Jim Nasmith

Scripture Readings: Genesis 2:1-9, Joel 1-2 Selected Readings

Genesis 2:1-9

²Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that God had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. ⁸And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the

east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food... Amen.

Joel 1-2 Selected Readings

¹The word of the LORD that came to Joel son of Pethuel:

² Hear this, O elders,
give ear, all inhabitants of the land!
Has such a thing happened in your days,
or in the days of your ancestors?

³ Tell your children of it,
and let your children tell their children,
and their children another generation.

⁴ What the cutting locust left,
the swarming locust has eaten.
What the swarming locust left,
the hopping locust has eaten,
and what the hopping locust left,
the destroying locust has eaten.

⁵ Wake up, you drunkards, and weep;
and wail, all you wine-drinkers,
over the sweet wine,
for it is cut off from your mouth.

⁶ For a nation has invaded my land,
powerful and innumerable;
its teeth are lions' teeth,
and it has the fangs of a lioness.

⁷ It has laid waste my vines,
and splintered my fig trees;
it has stripped off their bark and thrown it down;
their branches have turned white.

¹⁷ The seed shrivels under the clods,
the storehouses are desolate;
the granaries are ruined
because the grain has failed.

¹⁸ How the animals groan!

The herds of cattle wander about
because there is no pasture for them;
even the flocks of sheep are dazed.

¹⁹ To you, O LORD, I cry.

For fire has devoured
the pastures of the wilderness,
and flames have burned
all the trees of the field.

²⁰ Even the wild animals cry to you
because the watercourses are dried up,
and fire has devoured
the pastures of the wilderness.

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,
for God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;

sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶ gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;

assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for the land,
and had pity on the people.

²¹ Do not fear, O soil;
be glad and rejoice,

for the LORD has done great things!

²² Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

²³ O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the LORD your God;
for God has given the early rain for your vindication,
God has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.

²⁴ The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

We are listening, O God;
Speak to us!

Sermon: CLIMATE CHANGE, ECO-ANXIETY & HOPE

Dr. Harris

Special Music: The Holy City

Stephen Adams

soloist Shaun Alphonso with pianist Bruce Nasmith

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: "Pray for the wilderness"

No. 716

soloists Elias Theocharidis and Shaun Alphonso with organist Bruce Nasmith

1. Pray for the wilderness, vanishing fast;
pray for the rain forest, open and vast;
pray for the waterfalls, pray for the trees;
pray for the planet
brought down by degrees.

learn from the children
who play in their sands.

2. Learn from the elephant,
eagle and whale;
learn from the dragonfly, spider and snail;
learn from the people
in neighboring lands;

3. Work for the justice
created things need;
work for the health of each
plant and its seed;
work for the creatures
abuse has betrayed;
work for the garden
God's wisdom once made.

4. Trust that God's Christ
overcame nails and wood;
trust that earth's people will turn to good;
trust that creation forever will grow;
trust that God's goodness to us overflows.

5. Pray for the atmosphere;
pray for the sea;
learn from the river, the rock and the tree;
work till shalom is full harmony rings;
trust the connection of all living things

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Te Deum Prelude

Charpentier

Ministers

Ministers-in Association

Minister Emeritus

Clerk of Session

Administrator & Manager of Community Engagement

Music Director

Parish Nurse Assistant

The Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis, hathan1964@hotmail.com

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The Rev. Dr. Carol Loudon, The Rev. Deb Stanbury

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