

Summer Festival of Praise

Prelude "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Words of Welcome and Announcements Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

Introduction Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples, COSSO Spiritual Formation Director

Call to Worship (from Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord!

Let all people praise the name of the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens and the earth!

**Let young men and women,
old men and children praise the Lord!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

Opening Prayer

**God of celebrations and quiet summer nights, in the turmoil of this world,
strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let your peace
flow through us, that we might be a calming presence in the storms of
summer. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF CREATION

Hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King"

UMH 62 vs. 1, 4, 7

Responsive Reading (from Psalm 104)

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord my God, you are so great;
you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

**You make springs pour water into the rivers,
and flow over the mountains.**

The birds of the air nest in the trees;
they sing among the branches.

**You make grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants to bring forth food for human life.**

Water gladdens our hearts,
and bread sustains our strength.

How great are your works, O Lord!

You formed all things and filled the world with beauty,
and everything was very good.

Reflection on God's Good Creation

Prayer

Loving God, we ask your blessing on us as we dedicate ourselves to the protection and care of all that you have created, in your name we pray. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

Hymn "Take My Life and Let it Be"

UMH 399

Responsive Reading (parts from Proverbs 4, Ecclesiastes 3, Colossians 3)

Get wisdom, get understanding;

do not forget my words or swerve from them.

**Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;
love her, and she will watch over you.**

In learning, we seek to know the Lord;

by promoting schools and teaching,

the light of God's Word shines through.

**I know that there is nothing better for people
than to be happy and do good while they live.**

That everyone may eat and drink,

and find satisfaction in all their work—this is the gift of God.

**And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through him.**

Even in the dullness of our daily work routine,

we hear the call to serve our Lord.

**We work for more than wages,
and justice shapes what we do
for the benefit of all.**

Reflection on a season of work and service

Prayer

God of work and all that sustains life, we thank you for the gift of health that our bodies may work, for sound minds that we may promote peace, and for the spirit of love you have placed in our hearts to share with others. May we continue to give thanks for that which you call us to do, in your holy name. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF REST & RENEWAL

Hymn "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

UMH 405

Responsive Reading (from Ecclesiastes 4 and Matthew 6)

Reader 1: I saw that all labor and all achievement comes from human envy of our neighbor. This is meaningless, like chasing after the wind.

Again, I saw something meaningless under the sun:
There was a man all alone. There was no end to his labor, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I working," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of pleasure?" This too is meaningless—a miserable life!

Reader 2: Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet God feeds them all. Are you not much more valuable than they?

But seek first the kingdom of God, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Reflection (on blessings in summer activities)

Prayer (for blessings in the church and community)

God, our provider and sustainer, we give thanks to you for the gift of serving in your church, for blessing us with family and friends who care for us and nurture us through times of work and stress; we thank you for reminding us to make space and time in our lives for rest and renewal, on vacation or stay-cation, and in moments of quiet refreshment, in the knowledge of your abiding presence. We pray this in your holy name. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

**Now our worship is over
and our service begins.
We go forth to love and serve God
in all that we do and all that we say,
not for our glory but for God's glory alone. Amen.**

Postlude "I'm Gonna Live so God can Use Me"

A version of this service was first held at Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Hamilton, Ontario, on June 26, 1988. It was planned by Rev. Ken Baker (pastor) and Bert Polman (director of music).