

**Order for Worship for 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, November 15, 2020**

**Prelude**

*Chris and Melissa Clark*

**Words of Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

**let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

**let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**

O come, let us worship and bow down,

**let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

For the Lord is our God,

**and we are the people of God's pasture,**

**and the sheep of God's hand.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Hymn # 14**

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

*DIX*

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

***Refrain:***

***Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: [Refrain]

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: [Refrain]

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: [Refrain]

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;  
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: [Refrain]

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**We are reluctant to face your judgment, all-knowing God. We know we have not fully invested the talents you have entrusted to us. We hide them and hoard them, retreating into a false sense of security. We live in the nighttime of self-protection rather than in the light of full participation in loving, faithful service. We seek to escape your wrath by shrinking from life rather than investing ourselves in the tasks to which you call us. Have mercy on us, O God. We want to be children of the day – your day. Help us! Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Readings from Holy Scripture**

I Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-20

**Sermon**

“Judgment or Abundant Love? The Starting Point Matters.”

**Affirmation of Faith**

*The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again and ascended to heaven.  
He is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
and will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Hymn # 716**

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

*BEACH SPRING*

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.  
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:  
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving al

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Offering of Our Gifts**

Invitation

Offertory

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Amy Watt

## Doxology

### Prayer of Dedication

**Almighty God, we know that our talents are really not ours, but yours. You give us resources, gifts, skills and talents to use in your service. We want to be faithful stewards, wise but not cautious, generous and joyous in our giving. Accept, we pray, this offering, as a sign of our desire to be trustworthy servants of our servant Lord, Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### Hymn # 526

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

LINSTEAD

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken; the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and heard.  
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one; at his table he set the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.  
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!  
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!

### Charge and Blessing

Colossians 3:12-14

### Postlude

“Aria” - Handel

Amy Watt

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Today's Prayer of the Day, Prayer of Confession, and Assurance of Pardon are from *Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A* by Lavon Baylor. The Call to Worship, Prayer for Illumination, Call for the Offering and Prayer of Dedication were written by Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield for November 15, 2020. Special music today is provided by Chris and Melissa Clark and Amy Watt.

### Notes on today's Hymns from *Glory to God* (2013)

*In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of “For the Beauty of the Earth” has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.*

*“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” was one of about 450 submissions in a search conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.*

*The “communion calypso” (as the author called it) of “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” affirms the continuing presence of Christ both in the sacramental meal and in the lives of Christians. Because this text was written to fit a pre-existing tune, it has a rather telegraphic style that encourages pondering.*