

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 11, 2020 † 10:00 AM

EARTH CARE SUNDAY

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Jeff Binder

LITURGIST: Connie Brenner

MUSICIANS: Bob Hinson, Raoul Bellis-Squires

VIDEO/SOUND: Greg Russell, Donna Russell, Steve Rees, Dan Rueff

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE AND ELEMENTS

WORDS OF PRAISE

Come, let us dwell in God's shelter.

Let us dwell in God's work of art.

Come, because the Earth is the Lord's, and God's Earth is our home.

We live in God's World; we are not alone.

We share this life with the heavens and the earth,

With the waters and the land,

With trees and grasses,

With fish, birds, and animals,

With minerals and creatures of every form,

And with all our brothers and sisters.

God is good and everything God makes is good.

God is love and everything God makes is love's fruit.

Let us worship the God of Creation!

OPENING HYMN No. 14 (For the Beauty of the Earth)

Verse 1: ***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.***

Verse 2: ***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

Verse 3: ***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

Verse 4: ***For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:*** Refrain

Verse 5: ***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

OPENING PRAYER (The Book of Common Prayer, 1549)

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of the earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your name, now and forever.

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE No. 288 (Spirit of the Living God)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

Hear this good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 583 (Glory to God)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE (1 Kings 19:4-13)

ANTHEM ("I Walk a Stranger on this Land" by Dale Wood; Raoul Bellis-Squires, Bass-Baritone)

MESSAGE ("In the Silence" by Rev. Jeff Binder)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 37 (Let All Things Now Living)

Verse 1: Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night: till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

Verse 2: By law God enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine. We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing with glad adoration, a song let us raise, till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Accra Confession)

We believe in God, Creator and Sustainer of all life, who calls us as partners in the creation and redemption of the world. We live under the promise that Jesus Christ came so that all might have life in fullness. Guided and upheld by the Holy Spirit we open ourselves to the reality of our world. We believe that God has made a covenant with all of creation. God has brought into being an earth community based on the vision of justice and peace. The covenant is a gift of grace that is not for sale in the market place. It is an economy of grace for the household of all of creation. Jesus shows that this is an inclusive covenant in which the poor and marginalized are preferential partners and calls us to put justice for the "least of these" at the center of the community of life. All creation is blessed and included in this covenant.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

MINUTE FOR MISSION (Ruthann Marquis)

OFFERTORY (Ina Imagine Ka Lei Hali'a O Ka Lokelani)

(Offerings can be mailed into the church office or made online by visiting our website:

www.valleycommunity.org)

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

CLOSING HYMN No. 39 (Great Is Thy Faithfulness)

Verse 1: *Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee. Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

Refrain: *Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Verse 2: *Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.* Refrain

Verse 3: *Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!* Refrain

CHARGE AND BLESSING (by Helen Weaver)

Multiply our prayers in every land

Until the whole Earth becomes your congregation,

United in your love.

Sustain our vision of a peaceful future

And give us strength to work unceasingly

To make that vision real.

Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE