

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: How majestic is God's name in all the earth!
We see God's glory in the expanse of the heavens.
- All: All plants and animals are God's creation.
All that God has made reflects God's goodness.**
- One: We are created in God's image, to relate to God.
- All: We receive great abundance and care from our Creator.
God blesses us day by day with good things.**
- One: Gather to praise God and greet one another.
Celebrate all the ways God is revealed to us.
- All: We worship the Creator and Sustainer of all things.**

***OPENING HYMN** "For the Beauty of the Earth" GtG 14

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

(continued...)

4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.
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:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry
Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear God, you have blessed us with the beauty of this world and all the good gifts in it. But we do not take very good care of your gifts. And we are not very good at telling you, "Thank you." Forgive us, O Lord. Teach us how to care better for your creation. Help us to appreciate the true beauty of the world, that we might work to share that beauty with others. For it is in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- One: God knows us better than we know ourselves. God knows when we do wrong, and when we fail in the way God wants us to go.
- All: But God is also patient and kind, loving us always.**
- One: So we seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us and laid down his life for us.
- All: So we rejoice in the good news, that through Jesus Christ we can know forgiveness for our sins...and help in living better lives.**

THE PEACE

- One: The peace of Christ be with you.
- All: And also with you.**

(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS Genesis 2 (selected)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Addendum...with a Twist” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Sacred the Body” GtG 27

1. **Sacred the body
God has created,
temple of Spirit that dwells deep inside.
Cherish each person;
nurture relation.
Treat flesh as holy, that love may abide.**

2. **Bodies are varied,
made in all sizes,
pale, full of color; both fragile and strong.
Holy the difference,
gift of the Maker,
so let us honor each story and song.**

3. **Love respects persons,
bodies and boundaries.
Love does not batter, neglect, or abuse.
Love touches gently,
never coercing.
Love leaves the other with power to choose.**

4. **Holy of holies,
God ever loving,
make us your temples; indwell all we do.
May we be careful,
tender and caring,
so may our bodies give honor to you.**

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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY THAT WE HUMAN BEINGS ARE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD?

All: That God created us to live together in love and freedom -- with God, with one another, and with the world. ... We are created to be loving companions of others so that something of God's goodness may be reflected in our lives.

One: WHAT DOES OUR CREATION IN GOD'S IMAGE REFLECT ABOUT GOD'S LOVE FOR US?

All: We are created to live wholeheartedly for God. When we honor our Creator as the source of all good things, we are like mirrors reflecting back the great beam of love that God shines on us. We are also created to honor God by showing love toward other human beings.

One: AS CREATURES MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE, WHAT RESPONSIBILITY DO WE HAVE FOR THE EARTH?

All: God commands us to care for the earth in ways that reflect God's loving care for us. We are responsible for ensuring that earth's gifts be used fairly and wisely, that no creature suffers from the abuse of what we are given, and that future generations may continue to enjoy the abundance and goodness of the earth in praise to God.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: God of all goodness and love...

All: ...hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Contemporary)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection “Risen On High!” Choir

Words and Music by Steve Kupferschmid

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**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**For all that you have given us,
we thank you, gracious God.
For day and night, evening and morning,
for land and sea, for fish and birds,
plants and animals, for humankind,
and for your Son, who came among us
with the gift of life abundant.
Work through our offerings,
that all may have joy and peace.
And may the simple gifts of our lives
be a sign of our unending gratitude
for your undying love;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “God, You Spin the Whirling Planets” GtG 23

- 1. God, you spin the whirling planets,
fill the seas and spread the plain,
mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
We, created in your image,
would a true reflection be
of your justice, grace, and mercy
and the truth that makes us free.**
- 2. You have called us to be faithful
in our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship
joined in one community.**

(continued...)

**When we blur your gracious image,
focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as your people,
we move onward toward your goal.**

**3. God, your word is still creating,
calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas
where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion.
Polish us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in your image,
we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...
All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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