

First United Church

Sunday, September 11, 2022 10:30 a.m.

Purpose: Building Relationships,
Living God's Transforming Love.

GATHERING

Prelude Chanson de Matin, Op. 15, No. 2 Edward Elgar

Territorial and Treaty Acknowledgement Welcome and Announcements

- (Congregation is invited to stand as they are able)

Gallery Choir Introit: Gather Us In David Hann, MV 7

- Procession of the Light and Word
- **Call to Worship**

One: Gather us in Holy Mystery who is Wholly Love.

All: Gather us in, as we come from summer wanderings, from times of isolation, from moments of high anxiety, from times of summer rest. Gather us in as we come seeking new and renewed community.

One: Gather us in to sing your praises, to listen for your word among the words of our tradition, to see in one another the promise of your transforming love.

All: Gather us in, for we would be your people in this moment, in this place, and in the places and times of our lives throughout the week to come.

Prayer of Approach

Creating One,
here we are, a gathering of your people;
evidence of Creation's unfolding,
we come,
all shapes and all sizes
all ages and life stages.

We come
on dancing feet
or carefully walking.

We come
hesitant and unsure,
or filled with conviction and knowing our way.

However we come,
we are here to join with all of creation in praise and thanksgiving.

Accept our gift of worship
as with one voice,
one hope, one love,
we gather into praise.

United Church Worship Resources for Creation Time Created by Pat Milliken

• **Opening Hymn:** God of Grace and God of Glory tune: CWM RHONDDA VU 686

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
 on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
 bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 for the facing of this hour.

- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
 scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
 free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 for the living of these days.

- 3 Cure your children's warring madness,
 bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
 rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

- 4 Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28 (reader: Walt Brooker)
Psalm 14 pg. VU 735
1 Timothy 1:12-17

Herein is Wisdom

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-10

Ministry of Music All Things Bright and Beautiful
Bethany Horst, soloist

John Rutter

Sermon: There Will Be Consequences

• **Hymn:** Touch the Earth Lightly

VU 307

- 1 Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.
- 2 We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!
- 3 Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.
- 4 God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Ministry of Music A Simple Song
Bethany Horst, soloist

Leonard Bernstein

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Response (from A Song of Faith)
We witness to Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.
God is creative and self-giving,
generously moving
in all the near and distant corners of the universe.

Nothing exists that does not find its source in God.
Our first response to God's providence is gratitude.
We sing thanksgiving.

Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery,
of living things, diverse and interdependent,
of complex patterns of growth and evolution,
of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls,
we sing of God the Creator,
the Maker and Source of all that is.

Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God the Creator,
who is both in creation and beyond it.

All parts of creation animate and inanimate, are related
All creation is good.

We sing of the Creator,
who made humans to live and move
and have their being in God.

In and with God,
we can direct our lives toward right relationship
with each other and with God.

We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life.
We can grow in wisdom and compassion.

We can recognize all people as kin.

We can accept our mortality and finitude, not as a curse,
but as a challenge to make our lives and choices matter.

A Time of Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Bountiful Creator, we give you thanks and praise for the many gifts with which you have blessed us. We come now offering thee gifts of thanksgiving to you. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts that working together we and they may bring peace and justice to the whole of your creation. Amen

Call to Prayer There is room for all

MV 62

There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.

And I rejoice and sing,

"My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."

There is room for all, there is room for all!

Repeat

Prayers of the People

• **Sending Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness**

VU 288

1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.
 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, ever to me!

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. R

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 -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. R

• **Benediction and Sending Forth:**

• Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen

VU 974

• **Recession of the Light and Word**

Postlude God of Grace

CWM RHONDDA, arr. Paul Manz