



October 17, 2021

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Call to Worship

God, you are a God of wonder

You created the stars in the sky.

God, you are a creative God,

You created us and we are made of star dust.

God, you are love,

You know our hearts. We praise You and lift our voice with the orchestra of Your creation. Amen!

Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

Call to Confession

Unison Confession (Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'; used with permission.)

Sometimes, O God, we forget people, or we toss them aside – the difficult ones, the needy ones, the ones that are hard to spend time with, the ones who confront us. And sometimes when we do things like that, it's not really about the other people, but about us. We are uncomfortable, or we feel guilty, or we follow brighter, shinier people, or we worry about what will make us look good. We are in such desperate need of Your forgiveness. We need to be forgiven for our sin, for our mistakes, for mistaking what the world values with what You value. Help us to be better, and to see more clearly, and to care more thoroughly. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve. Alleluia! Amen.

Hymn

God Is So Good

Affirmation of Faith: *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 power of 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; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he 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.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

God, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we too have known Your love, and experienced Your care and provision. You invite us to extend that love to the world around us—to care for others as deeply as we care for ourselves. And so we bring the needs of our world before You now.

In Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the many who do not have enough: enough food to eat, or shelter to keep warm; enough employment, or money to pay their bills; enough medicine or medical care.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We also pray for those who have more than enough, but who still struggle to find meaning and purpose in life; who indulge in dangerous or self-serving activities to dull their pain or loneliness.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, Your grace reaches out to all of us. You call us to live as citizens of heaven, working together with one heart and mind. Strengthen us to live in a manner worthy of the Good News we have received, offering our lives in service of Your kingdom, where the last are first, and the first are last, and there is grace enough for all.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture

Job 38:1-7, 34-41

Hebrews 5:1-10

Sermon

Pastor Erin

Hymn

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

Blessing

Search for the Lord and for God's strength; continually seek God. Never forget the marvelous things God has done for God's people—the wonders and miracles we have seen and heard.

For God is the ruler of the whole earth, and we are God's people, kept secure in God's faithful love.