

A Sunday to Honor God's Creation



June 30, 2024
St. James Lutheran Church
At Barron Ridge Vineyard
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

Our lives are finite, creation is timeless. God, our creator is eternal. It is hard to fathom that when we look up into the night sky we can see light that has travelled for billions and billions of years. Our theology says that God created the heavens and the earth, that is all of creation not just our earth. In Genesis we are called to have dominion over our world and to subdue it. That is, care for it the best we can. We must honor the creation that God has given us. We must protect creation. Our worship today is to lift up, acknowledge, and celebrate our world as we know it.

Call to Worship Prayer of the Four Directions And Mother Earth and Father Sky.

Creator is the Center of Creation. The central reality of Creator's plan for the world is the central reality of our lives. As we face each of the four directions, as we kneel to Mother Earth, and as we reach to the Heavens, we will respond in prayer. Following each prayer, we will return to face the altar, reminded each time that it is our Creator who is able to bring healing and salvation and who, by His Spirit, is able to renew the face of the earth.
First let us all face a center point. (all face toward the altar, pause)

The start of life's journey, the new day, is the East. It is the place of beginnings, first light, and the possibility of starting again. (all face East, pause)

You have sung us into existence. As we face East let us pray:

Enable us, Creator Spirit, to be wise in our use of the resources of the earth, sharing them in justice, partaking of them in thankfulness. (all face toward the altar, pause)

The South holds the warmth of summer. It is a time of innocence, of learning and growth.
(all face South, pause)

You have sung us into existence. As we face South let us pray:

May we walk good paths, Creator Spirit, living on this earth as sisters and brothers should, rejoicing in one another's blessings, sympathizing in one another's sorrows, and together with You, renewing the face of the earth. (all face toward the alter, pause)

The West reminds us of the wisdom of maturity with the approaching of the sunset. It is the time of parenthood, responsibility, and good sense – the time to teach, acknowledge, and give thanks. (all face West, pause)

You have sung us into existence. As we face West pray that the Spirit of Creator may again breathe over the waters making them pure, making them fruitful. Let us pray:

We pray that we too may be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth. (all face toward the alter, pause)

The North holds the hard, cleansing wisdom of the time of winter and white hair; the elders breathe through the sacred pipe, the grandparents who, on life's great circle, are closest to the little children. (all face North, pause)

You have sung us into existence. As we face North let us pray:

May the air we breathe be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth. (all face toward the alter, pause)

From Mother Earth comes all that has life. (Bend and touch Mother Earth pause)

You have sung us into existence. As we touch Mother Earth let us pray:

May we walk gently upon the Earth and leave our footprints softly on what we touch.

We raise our hands toward Father Sky. In love, Father Sky embraces all the Earth with His love. (Raise your hands and extend your palms toward the sky, pause)

You have sung us into existence. As we raise our hands to Father Sky let us pray:

May we see the vastness of Your arms and feel Your embrace of love at all times. Amen.

Gathering Song "In Christ There Is No East or West" (LBW 359)

In Christ There Is No East or West



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close-bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Confession and Forgiveness

Creator of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of Your people, turn us from the wrong paths to live for You alone. Give us Your Spirit that we may confess our wrongs, receive Your forgiveness, and grow in Your Son, our Brother Jesus.

Amen.

Let us confess those things we have done wrong in the presence of Creator and one another.

Pause

Creator,

Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from You and, too often, we have given ourselves into the power of wrong. We are truly sorry and humble ourselves before You. In Your compassion forgive us our wrongs, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to You, and uphold us by Your Spirit, so that we may live and serve You in newness of life through Jesus, our Brother and Savior. Amen.

Creator, rich in mercy, loved us even when we walked the wrong path and made us alive with our Brother Jesus. By Creator's love, we have been saved. Our wrongs are forgiven † and Creator strengthens us with power through His Spirit. **Amen.**

GREETING


The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy


Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Gather Us In" (WOV 718 vs. 1 & 4)




1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,




van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shiñ-ing,




brought here to you in the light of this day.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. . .

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. It is so familiar, yet in its commonness we may lose sight of the importance of creation. It is not just our gardens and the land around us but all of the universe all of time. It is hard to grasp that dinosaurs roamed around millions of years ago. It is hard to think about what life will be like a hundred years from now. In the beginning...

Genesis 1:1-2:3

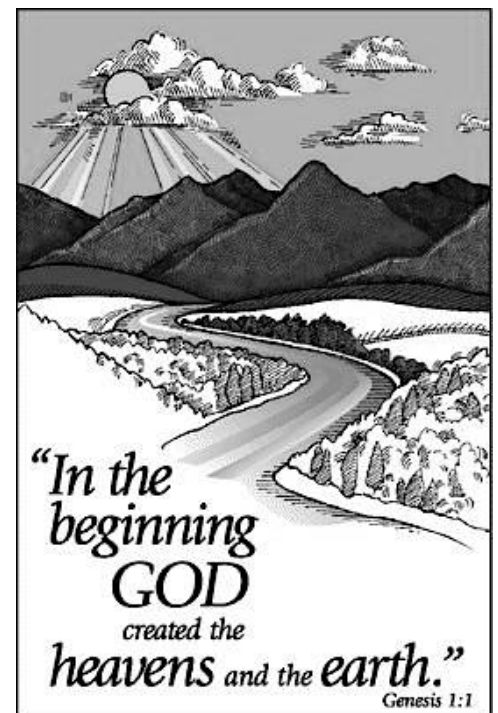
¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every



kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95:1-7

¹Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

²**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

³For you, Lord, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

⁷For the Lord is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep of God's hand.

Second Reading:

We are called to be God's partners in the care of the planet. Paul links all of creation to Christ. All of creation may be free but it is always evolving. Creation is groaning in labor pain as we try to understand how we are to be caretakers with Christ of creation.

Romans 8:18-23

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

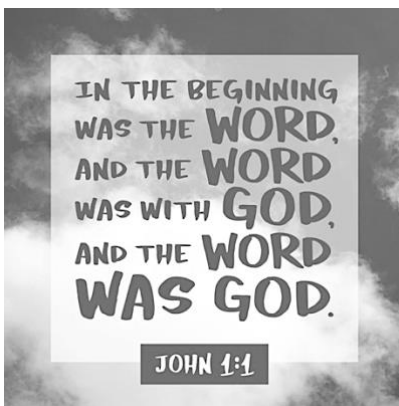



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-5


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.



This is a familiar passage from John, “In the beginning was the Word...” It goes back to God created the heavens and the earth. God spoke and it happened. And then in a time and place God came to us and redeemed us, made us children and ultimately to be care takers of our world.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The Gospel of the Lord.


Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Rev. Gordon Putnam

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Earth and All Stars!” (LBW 558)

Earth and All Stars!



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
 2 Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
 3 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
 4 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



Oh, vic - to - ry! Loud shout - ing ar - my!
 Flow - ers and trees! Loud rus - tling dry leaves!
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
 Lime-stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



He has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too will praise him with a new song!

5 Classrooms and labs!
 Loud boiling test tubes!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Athlete and band!
 Loud cheering people!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

6 Knowledge and truth!
 Loud sounding wisdom!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Daughter and son!
 Loud praying members!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith by using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of
the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

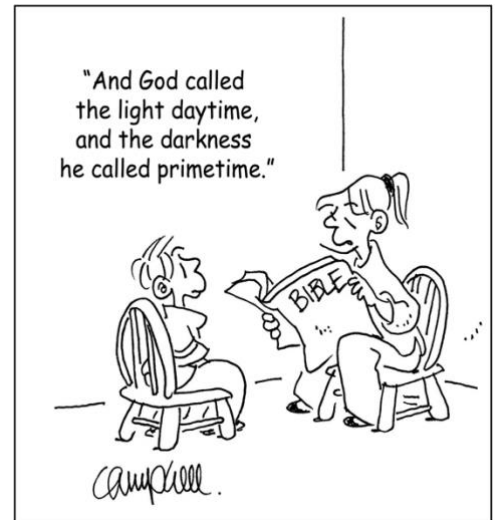
the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.



THE PRAYERS

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

Blessed God, whose love calls the whole creation into covenant with you, and who puts in our hands responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures: we pray for all to whom you have given life and being, saying,

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the waters of the earth; for their careful use and conservation, that we may have the will and the ability to keep them clean and pure, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the mineral and energy resources of the planet, that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small, that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the creatures of the earth who do us harm and those whose place in your creation we do not understand or welcome, that we may see them as beloved creatures of God, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For all who shape public policies affecting the planet and its creatures [especially and our local leaders and], that they may consider wisely the well-being of all who come after us, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the creatures and the human beings of your world who are ill, or in danger, pain, or special need We especially pray for Norma, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Inez, Claire, Charles, Ellen, Jerry, Josh, Mike, Melvin, Joe, Charles, Peggy, Tony, Bonnie and the family of Zeby, and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the God's creation:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Greet each other in the peace of the Lord.)

OFFERING

Let All Things Now Living (LBW 557) (First verse only)

On Page 13

OFFERING PRAYER "All Things Hold Beauty" (a Mohawk prayer)

Thank you, Creator, for all that You have given us.

Thank you for the beauty of the universe that You created:

the trees, the sky, the mountains, the rain.

All things hold beauty in themselves and

all are related and touch each creature of the earth.

You created the rhythm and pattern of the universe

in a harmony of movement, sight and sound.

Help us to appreciate Your creation

and to live with our eyes, ears, and hearts open to Your message.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

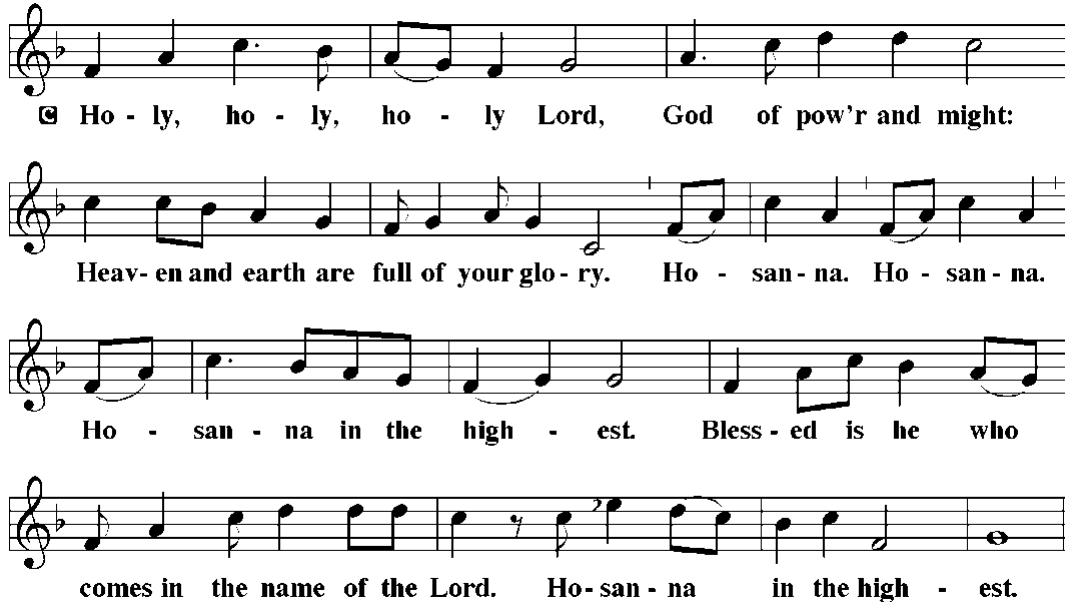
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is your living Word from before time and for all ages; by him you created all things, and by him you make all things new. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

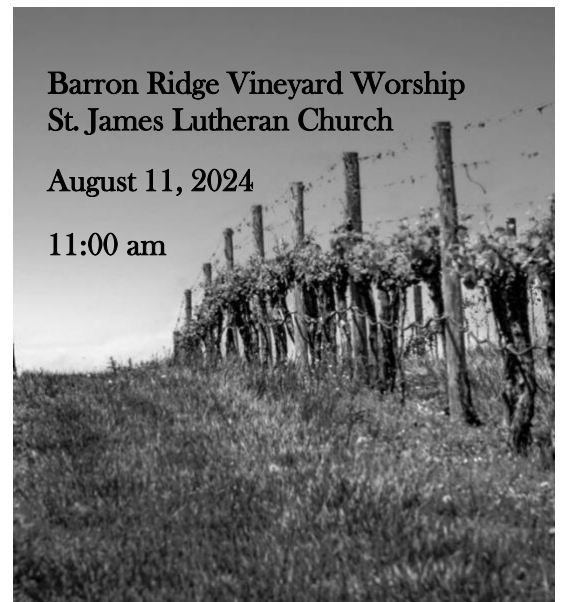
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those**

Barron Ridge Vineyard Worship
St. James Lutheran Church

August 11, 2024

11:00 am



who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.

Amen.

**Let All Things Now Living
(LBW 557) (Second verse only)**

On Page 13


PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray...
Faithful God
in the wonder of your wisdom and love
you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of
angels,
and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life.
We thank you for feeding us with this bread and wine.
May it strengthen us
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may embody your desire
and be renewed for your service
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN: "All Things Bright and
Beautiful" (WOV 767) On Next Page**

BLESSING

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
be upon you now and forever.
Walk tall as the trees,
Live strong as the mountains,



June
30th Tammy Jones
Debbie Snyder
Sherie W-Rohal

July
7th Sam Diehl
14th Anne Putnam
21st Debbie Snyder
28th Danny Snyder

Prayer Concerns

Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Claire Viette, Ellen McDonald, Charles McDonald, Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie's aunt), Jerry Hill (friend of Pastor Gordon and Anne), Josh Thornhill (Norma Turak's grandson-in-law), Mike Martin (friend of Phillip Snyder), Joe McCune (friend of Ronnie), Charles Driver (Sam and Lynda's neighbor), Melvin Glass (friend of Ivan), Bonnie Snyder (Danny's mother), and Peggy Desimore (friend of Norma).

Prayer Concerns

Betty Diehl, Tony Giltner (Gene's brother), and the family of Zeby Carlyle.

Community Conversations

- June flowers are given by Flora Williams.
- July flowers will be given by Bambi Straw.
- The goodwill offering of \$156 benefited SACRA. Thank you for your generosity.
- July 2nd Quilting at 1pm.
- July 9th Open Circle at St. James at 1 pm. Bible Study on the "Book of Esther."
- July 10th Council Meeting at 9 am.
- Men's Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
 - June—Joyce Dull
 - July—Debbie Snyder

Be gentle as the spring winds,
 Keep the warmth of the summer sun in your heart
 And know that Great Spirit † is always with you.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are co-creators with God.

Thanks be to God.

All Things Bright and Beautiful

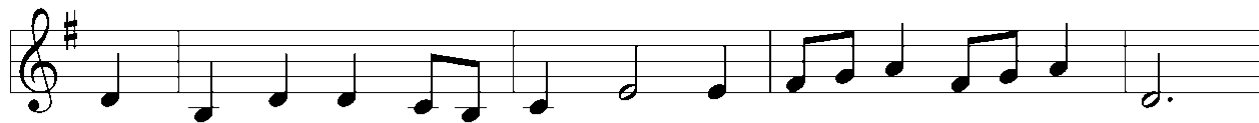
Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



- 1 Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
- 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
- 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
- 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell




Refrain

God made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - 'ry one.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander. 1818–1895, alt.
 Music: ROYAL OAK, English tune, 17th cent., adapt. Martin Shaw. 1875–1958

	
30 th	Missy Leach

	
13th	Dawn Whitecotton
22nd	Charles McDonald
31st	Jean Wilkins

Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
 2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
 deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Pastor Gordon Putnam
 434-760-0263
 Grputnam1949@gmail.com
 Pastor Carl Trost
 Hannah Pingel, Pianist
 Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw, Assisting Ministers

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