



Sunday, April 14, 2024

Earth Care Sunday

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Genesis 1:26-31 (NIV)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalms 8 (NIV)

- *CONNECTING YOU WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY* -

Greeters: Sandy & Tom Johnson, Chris & David King, Reist Family, Coralie Werking & Stan Jacobs

Ushers: Randy Heller, Robert & Johanna Gingher, Phil Smith, Nancy Holtzapple

The white rose recognizes and bears witness to the life and memory of Joan Lewis

The Chancel Flowers are Presented By:

Nancy Mudloff, in memory of Bob Mudloff

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes

Prelude

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" down the pew.

At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.

*Call to Worship

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Leader: We have come here seeking to worship the God of all Creation.

People: We have come to stand on this holy ground!

Leader: We have come to sing God's praises, as the blooming bluebells and trilliums sing God's praises.

People: We have come to sing praises to our Creator!

Leader: We have come to experience the mighty rush of the Spirit, flowing like the Susquehanna and the Conestoga.

People: We have come to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit!

All: We have come to experience the God of Creation in this sacred space.

*Hymn #288

"I Sing The Mighty Power of God"

Proclaiming God's Word

Call to Confession

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

With every step we take on this earth, we depend on the God who created it. God embraces us with compassion and offers countless blessings. As we receive these gifts, we also speak truthfully about our failures to use these gifts according to God's purposes. Let us confess our sins, beginning with a time of silent prayer.

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Most Gracious God, as your amazing loves for us endures, we gather here today as a rebellious people. We want to act out your intentions for us, but we keep getting mixed up by shiny things that have no value to you. You tell us to honor Creation, and we use other people and animals and plant life only to meet our wants. You offer daily bread to every living creature, and we steal that bread from our brothers and sisters in the name of greed. You promise us new life, and we shrink back from it in fear. Heal us, God, so that we do not destroy ourselves or your creation. We long for your merciful presence and gentle correction. Amen

Kyrie Eleison 572

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Leader: There is nowhere that we can run to escape God's love and compassion. We belong to a God of abundant grace, and we follow Jesus Christ, who chose forgiveness over vengeance. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Leader: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

* Gloria Patri 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*At this time, children through 4th grade are invited to attend Sunday School. Teachers are stationed at the main doors of the sanctuary and will walk the children to the children's classrooms in the Narthex.
Parents/Guardians may pick up their children after the service in the classroom.*

Anthem

"For The Beauty of the Earth"

by J. Rutter

Scripture Readings

Psalms 8, Genesis 1:26-31

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Message

"Being Good Stewards of the Earth"

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of The People, Lord's Prayer

Will Massey

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Wooden offering boxes are located in the narthex

Going in God's Name

* Closing Hymn #285

"God, You Spin The Whirling Planets"

* Charge and Benediction

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

*Choral Response

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

by J. Rutter

Organ Postlude

***PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT**

MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST

A/V: MARK ANDERSON AND GUS BEAULIEU

Please be advised that services are recorded and you may be incidentally captured on video as part of the recording of the service. The back of the right side of the sanctuary as you enter is out of the range of the camera.

A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal.

FM sound devices are available. Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.

Cell Phones should be silenced during the worship service.

Video Recordings of the service can be found on the Highland website at www.HighlandPC.org

In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.