



ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Hopewell UMC has a vision to be a community of hope for a hurting world.

Mission Statement: *We are a home for ALL people to be transformed by the love of God and grow in mind, body, and spirit.*

Our Core Values: *Worship. Learn. Serve. Love.*

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: How wonderful are the works of God!

People: We give thanks and praise for the beauty of Creation.

Leader: God made all living things; animals, plants, and humans and calls us to care for and protect them all.

People: As people of faith, we strive to care for all of Creation.

Leader: God equips and empowers us to live as good stewards.

People: Let us worship and praise God together!

OPENING PRAYER:

O, Holy Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze, we need your strength and wisdom. Come to us, make your presence known among us. Swirl like the wind and fill us with your cleansing power. Today, on this Festival of God's Creation Sunday, we join with all of Creation to sing the song of the stars; to rejoice in the sunlight; and to breathe in Your life-giving air. May we be made new by the living water offered through the risen Christ. Amen.

OPENING HYMN:

All Things Bright and Beautiful

UMH #147

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Genesis 1 (NRSV)

Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the 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. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good...9 And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. 14 And 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... And God saw that it was good. 20 And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." 21 So 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...

24 And 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. 25 God 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. 26 Then 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." 27 So God created humankind in their image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God 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." 30 And 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. 31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

New Testament: Revelation 21:1-8 (NRSV)

The New Heaven and the New Earth

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; **4** he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." **5** And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." **6** Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. **7** Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. **8** But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale* UMH #122

SERMON: *Dominion, Domination, "Dominoes!"* Rev. Laura Steele

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

CLOSING HYMN: *God the Sculptor of the Mountains* TFWS #2060

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE