



ORDER OF WORSHIP
September 13, 2020
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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.*

'Let the field exult and everything in it'. Psalm 96:12

WELCOME

PRELUDE: Across the Lands (adapted by Mary McIntyre)

(Keith Getty/Stuart Townend CCLI song #3709898 c. 2002 Thankyou Music CCLI License #57980)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Today we worship our Creator with all the land.

People: With the wildflowers, swirling grasses, and golden fields of grain.

Leader: We join the land as it trembles before God,

People: With tremors and earthquakes, whirlwinds and volcanoes.

Leader: We invite the orchards and vineyards, gardens and wetlands to sing praises with us this day.

People: Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence. Amen

OPENING PRAYER:

God, our Creator, we celebrate your vibrant presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the soil, the fields and the land. Today we remember the dry land that rose from the waters in the beginning of creation, and the plants that emerged from the soil to cover the land with vegetation. Help us to empathize with your creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the land, the flowers of the field and all the creatures of the countryside. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things. Amen.

OPENING HYMN:

All Things Bright and Beautiful

UMH #147

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT: Blessing of the Devices
JOYS & CONCERNS
PASTORAL PRAYER
LORD'S PRAYER**

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:14-19 (NRSV)

14 The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,

cursed are you among all animals

and among all wild creatures;

upon your belly you shall go,

and dust you shall eat

all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and hers;

he will strike your head,

and you will strike his heel.”

16 To the woman he said,

“I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing;

in pain you shall bring forth children,

yet your desire shall be for your husband,

and he shall rule over you.”

17 And to the man he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,

and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
19 By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

New Testament: Matthew 12:38-40 (NRSV)

The Sign of Jonah

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹ But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth.

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *God the Sculptor of the Mountains* TFWS #2060

SERMON: Land Sunday: In the Heart of the Earth Rev. Laura Steele

OFFERING

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE