



ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 6, 2020

Fourteenth 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.*

'All the trees of the forest sing for joy'. Psalm 96:12
(if you can, please enjoy virtual worship outside)

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We come in the name of the Creator, the fountain of life; in the name of Christ, the pulse of life; and in the name of the Holy Spirit, the breath of life.

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

Leader: Christ, we come into your presence today to worship not in the sanctuary of our buildings, but in the sanctuary of Creation called Earth.

People: A planet filled with your presence, your Spirit quivering in the forests, vibrating within the land, pulsating in the wilderness, shimmering through the rivers.

Leader: God, reveal yourself to us throughout all Creation.

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

OPENING PRAYER:

God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us. O Lord, grant us the grace to grow deeper in our respect and care for your Creation. Help us to recognize the sacredness of all of your Creatures as signs of your wondrous love. Help us turn from the selfish consumption of the resources you created, meant to sustain all your children, and guide our eyes and hearts to see the impact our choices have on the poor and vulnerable. All these things we ask in Christ's name, Amen.

OPENING HYMN:*All Creatures of Our God and King* (verses 1-4)

UMH #62

CHILDREN'S MOMENT**JOYS & CONCERNS****PASTORAL PRAYER****SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Genesis 2:4-22 (NRSV)**

4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, 5 when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; 6 but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— 7 then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. 8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; 12 and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. 13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” 19 So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man[c] there was not found a helper as his partner. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

New Testament: John 3:1-16 (NRSV)

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." 3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *This Is My Father's World* UMH #144

SERMON: Forest Sunday: The Trees are Dreaming **Rev. Laura Steele**

OFFERING

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN: *One Bread, One Body* UMH #620

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE