

Youth Sunday ~ May 8, 2022



Prelude (11:00)

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Will Lively

Call to Worship

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

People: We have come to stand on holy ground!

Leader: We have come to sing God’s praises, as trees and plants sing God’s praise with their blooming

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

Leader: We have come to experience the mighty rush of the Spirit like our surrounding flowing waters.

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

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

Hymn of Praise:

(8:45)

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

No. 14

(11:00)

“Shine Jesus, Shine”

No. 192

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy God, we confess that for many of us the history of how we came to be *here* is more complex than we understand.

People: We confess that we have lost our connection to our local habitat—to the names of the birds of the air, and the fish of the waters, and every crawling thing that you have created.

Leader: We confess that we are a people who have lost our connection to the dirt under our feet. The very substance into which you breathed life.

People: Transform us, O God, and give us roots.

Leader: Open our eyes to the seeds that have been sown here for millennia and the intentional care you have taken in crafting our habitat.

People: May we be rooted and grounded in the family of God in our midst. Lord have mercy on us. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness and Peace:

There is nowhere that we can run to escape God’s love and compassion. In the generous gift of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, we have been forgiven. As Children of God, we are invited into the meaningful work of following faithfully after Jesus here, in this place.

Doxology

(8:45)

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDREDTH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen***

(11:00)

“Amazing Grace, Alleluia”

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of Illumination: "Seek Ye First" No. 175

Time with Young Disciples Russ Pearson

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-5 NRSV

Message: "Stewards of Holy Ground" Russ Pearson

Hymn of Response: "This is My Father's World" No. 370

Affirmation of Faith: *Belhar Confession PCUSA Book of Confessions*

We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;

We believe that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need.

We believe that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Prayers of the People

The earth, and all that is within it, is yours, Lord God. Every creature great and small, you made and cherish them all. Give us eyes to see the colors and light that beckon us to care for the sky and land. Grant us ears to hear the birds' songs and the crickets' chirps as they call us to be good stewards of the trees and soil they call home. Give us the wisdom to stop, see, listen and feel your glory made known through the countless varieties of life in every corner of this your globe.

Lord, parts of your earth are hurting more than others. Be with the people of Ukraine. We feel hopeless and continue to pray for peace, for them, and for all the world. We pray for our enemies also, just as Jesus told us to. We pray for Russia and their President. We pray for them to stop. We pray for them to repent and turn around and for this conflict to resolve.

Lord, we also have hurts closer to home. Listen to your church as they pray for the needs on their hearts this morning.

May the beauty of this, your earth, compel us to act in ways that preserve, protect and sustain your creation so that each and every living being may flourish now and for generations yet to come. All this we pray because your Son taught us to pray using these words:

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory Song: "O Christ Surround Me" No. 543

Hymn of Sending:
(8:45) "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" No. 35
(11:00) "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" Indelible Grace

Benediction: In the name of Jesus, who was from Nazareth, we faithfully commit to *this* sacred place. Go forth to connect more deeply and follow more faithfully—in *this* place to which God has called us.

And may the God we know as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you today and every day.
AMEN.