

WORSHIP SERVICE
May 9, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

- * God's Greeting
- * We Greet One Another
- * Call to Worship (From Psalm 104)

LORD my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent.

He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.

He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.

I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

May the thoughts of my soul be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord.

- * Opening Song: "This Is My Father's World" *Lift Up Your Hearts #21*

This is my Father's world, And to my listening ears

All nature sings, and round me rings The music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought

Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas-- His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world: The birds their carols raise,

The morning light, the lily white, Declare their Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;

In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world: O let me not forget

That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world: Why should my heart be sad?

The Lord is King: let the heavens ring! God reigns; let earth be glad!

- * Opening Prayer

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

What we believe about our purpose in life: (Acts 17:24-28; *Westminster Catechism Q&A #1*)

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands....

Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'"

What is the chief purpose for which humanity is made?

Our chief purpose is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Dear Lord, you have made us in your image. You have called us to live as your sons and daughters in this world, but we have not lived up to that calling. Lord, restore us by your grace, and empower us by your Spirit that we may bring your redemption to this world.

Assurance of Pardon (Romans 8:14-16)

“Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself speaks deep within our spirit that we are God’s children.”

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

Children’s message

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

Message: “Why Go to Church: Life in Focus”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Prayer of Application

Song of Response: “How Great Thou Art”

Lift Up Your Hearts #553

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

But when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "To God Be the Glory"

Lift Up Your Hearts #956

To God be the glory, to God be the glory,
to God be the glory for the things he has done!
With his blood he has saved me,
with his power he has raised me –
to God be the glory for the things he has done!

* Postlude

* Please stand if you are able.

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musician: Andrew Friend

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion - Today, we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for believers. If you are sorry for your sins and follow Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you are invited to come to his table.

From Council - At the congregational meeting on May 2, 2021, officers for the next term were selected by lot. For the office of **Elder**, those chosen were Melody Franje and Mark Voss. For the office of **Deacon**, those chosen were Judy Oltman and Tina VanDyk.

Council is meeting on Wednesday, May 12.

Roots meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. (Please wear a mask.)

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

At-home Faith Formation Tip - "The Practice of Prayer: In Whistling in the Dark", Frederick Buechner writes, "'Thy kingdom come . . . on earth' is what we are saying. . . . To speak those words is to invite the tiger out of the cage, to unleash a power that makes atomic power look like a warm breeze." What are we asking when we pray for God's kingdom to come on earth?

Race Relations

May 11 Webinar: PREACHING AND TEACHING ANTIRACISM - The CRCNA Office of Race Relations staff invites you on May 11 at 5:00 p.m. to hear a conversation with a few leaders from across the US who are integrating faith and justice in their life work. One of the focus questions will be: Why is it difficult to teach about racism? For more information go to: crcna.org/Race/Events

World Renew

Will you help to protect lives in rural India? - As the world watches the unfolding COVID-19 crisis in India, the focus has been on the rising number of COVID cases, the shortage of medical supplies, and the heartbreaking loss of life in urban cities. But the virus is now spreading to rural areas where there are even fewer resources to protect lives. World Renew and its local partner are working in rural communities in Jharkhand to deliver hygiene kits to over 4,300 families to protect their health. We are also providing cash to help meet over 1,100 families' medical and food costs. To learn more about our efforts or to donate go to: worldrenew.net/corona/india

Resonate Global Mission

GLOCAL MISSION SUMMIT It's not too late to sign up for the Glocal Mission Summit! Are you ready to join God's work in your neighborhood? It's not too late to sign up for the Glocal Mission Summit, May 13-15. This VIRTUAL conference is FREE to attend and is designed to break you out of that Zoom fatigue with four sessions spread out over three days. Join us for a time of learning, networking, and hearing stories of what others are doing to join God on mission in communities throughout Canada, the United States, and the world. Learn more and register online at www.ResonateGlobalMission.org/Gloca

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