



Season of Creation: God Does Not Delight in Destruction September 17, 2023

3125 5th Ave. S., Great Falls, MT (406) 315-1203 www.newhopegf.org
Our mission: to share our faith in Christ by serving all with respectful compassion.

GATHERING

Gathering Music: Laudes Domini arr. Van Denman Thompson
Welcome & Announcements
Prelude: Be Not Afraid *from Elijah* arr. Harold K. Marks

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
C: Have mercy, O God, against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us new hearts and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.

L: As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.
C: Blessed be God forever.

Gathering Song: Touch the Earth Lightly ELW #739
1. Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
Nourish the life of the world in our care:
Gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
Trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

2. We who endanger, who create hunger,
Agents of death for all creatures that live,
We who would foster clouds of disaster –
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!
3. Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
Water that blesses, and air that is sweet,
Health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
Regeneration that peace will complete.
4. God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun.
Teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
Using us gently, and making us one.

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise: Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven (v. 1, 3, 4 only) ELW #864

1. Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; joyfully your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praises everlasting ring!
3. Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;
But, as mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the great Eternal One!
4. Angels sing in adoration, in God's presence, face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation, all who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

L: Let us all pray... **C: God of power and might, we put our hope in you as our shield from all harm. We trust that you are indeed grieved by destruction and pain in the earth. Help us to perceive the presence of Jesus with us in times of pain and terror. Bring into our hearts and into all creation the peace that can only come from the One to whom the wind and the waves listen. Amen.**

WORD

1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

L: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 33:13-22

L: The Lord looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.

C: God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth. God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.

L: A king is not saved by the size of his army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

C: The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength is cannot save.

L: Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O Lord, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

C: to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.

L: Our innermost being waits for you, O Lord, our helper and our shield.

C: Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.

L: Let your lovingkindness, O Lord be upon us,

C: even as we place our hope in you.

2nd Reading: Colossians 1:15-23

L: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

ACS p. 33

Gospel: Mark 4:37-41 **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Sermon

Pastor Tammy Bull

Hymn of the Day: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

ELW #733

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (refrain)

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith using the words of the
Apostles' Creed. ACS p. 17

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the
right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Prayers of the People (petitions end... "Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**")

Sharing the Peace of Christ

L: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Offering: (At this time we bring our gifts and offerings to God as an act of thankfulness and worship. Following the command of Jesus, we care for people in our congregation, our community, and the world in his name. One of the ways we do this is through the work of the Changing Climate Task Force of the Montana Synod of the ELCA. We appreciate your faithfulness in making regular contributions of your time, energy, prayers, and money to this work! If you are worshiping with us as a guest on-line or in-person, we invite you to join us in caring for God's people and God's world! As the music plays, please take a moment to reflect on God's goodness, and consider what your gift of thanksgiving and worship might be.)

Offering Response: We Plow the Fields and Scatter (v. 2 only)

ELW #681

2. You only are the maker of all things near and far.
You paint the wayside flower, you light the evening star.
The winds and waves obey you, by you the birds are fed;
Much more to us, your children, you give our daily bread.
All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above.
We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Offertory Prayer: **C: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

P: In the night in which he [...] Let us pray with confidence the prayer Jesus taught:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Be Known to Us

ACS p. 40

Hymn during Communion: O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW #658

1. O Jesus, joy of loving hearts, the fount of life, the light of all:
From ev'ry bliss that earth imparts We turn, unfilled, to hear your call.
2. We taste you, ever-living bread, and long to feast upon you still;
We drink of you, the fountain-head; our thirsting souls from you we fill.
3. For you our restless spirits yearn, where'er our changing lot is cast;
Glad when your smile on us your turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
4. O Jesus, ever with us stay! Make all our moments fair and bright!
Oh, chase the night of sin away! Shed o'er the world your holy light.

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us, unite us, and keep us in his grace. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us all pray... **C: O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace. **C: Amen.**

Sending Song: Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW #726

1. Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.
Refrain: The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
As all the world in wonder echoes shalom.
2. Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes. (refrain)
3. Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes. (refrain)

L: Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Joyful Alleluia

Robert J. Hughes

Accompanist: James Rickley

Cantor: Gaynell Tempel

Reader: Dee Wood

Fellowship: Carol Strom

ANNOUNCEMENTS for week of Sept. 17

- The executive team meets TODAY after worship in the Library.
- FELC church council meets Monday, Sept. 18 at 6 pm in the Bethlehem Hall.
- New Hope church council meets Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 7 pm in the Fireside Room.
- *Church and Civic Life* adult study Wednesday at 7 pm in the Library.
- GF Jazz Band rehearses at 7 pm in the Social Hall
- R.O.M.E.O. men's lunch group meets at 11:30 am in the Fireside Room.
- Hand bell choir rehearsal at 5:40 pm; choir at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.
- GF Community Band rehearsals resume Thu., Sept 21 at 7 pm in the Fireside Room

Keeping in Prayer... Carl & Harley, Marilyn, Angie, Ray Dawes, Ron Coons, Dorothy Sowa, Noah, Dorothy Roeth, Elaine Rice, Jerry Harrison, Toni Sperle, Steven, Megan, Walt & Sandy, Scott, Haley Tempel.

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