



Season of Creation: God Equips Us For Creation Care September 24, 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: *God of the Fertile Fields* Felice de Giardini arr. Stellhorn /Broughton
Welcome & Announcements

Handbell Prelude: *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* arr. Jason W. Krug

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: Let the Whole Creation Cry

ELW #876

1. Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;
Sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice.

2. Servants striving for the Lord, prophets burning with the word,
Those to whom the arts belong add their voices to the song.
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law, to the glorious circle draw;
All who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
3. Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold,
And let children's happy hearts in this worship take their parts;
From the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, Holy, Holy One; glory be to God alone!"

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 all creation, through Jesus, you taught us to pray. Answer us when we ask for your will to be done on earth as in heaven. Strengthen our courage, desire, and openness to part of how that will is accomplished in our own homes, communities, and across the earth. Our highest allegiance is to your divine will, poured out in love through creation, incarnation, and resurrection for all. Amen.**

WORD

1st Reading: Genesis 1:26-30

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

A responsive reading from Psalm 8

L: O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! -

C: you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

L: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

C: what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?

L: Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

C: You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:

L: all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

C: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

2nd Reading: Acts 17:22-28

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

Gospel Acclamation

ACS p. 33

Gospel: Matthew 6:7-15

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: God of the Fertile Fields

ACS #1063

1. God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
that all in ev'ry land be clothed and fed.
2. We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care
for people ev'rywhere, that all may live.
3. As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused your love bestows.

4. God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

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.)

Offertory Music: Chanson d'Automne

Esther L. Stephenson Higgins

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: Son of God, Eternal Savior

ELW #655

1. Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race,
You our head, who, throned in glory, for your own will ever plead:
Fill us with your love and pity, heal our wrong, and help our need.
2. As you, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted; freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.
3. Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion, bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling, by your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, stem our selfish greed of gain.
4. Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race,
By your praying, by your willing that your people should be one,
Grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition: here on earth your will be done.

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

Postlude: An Affirmation of Faith

Lani Smith

Accompanist: James Rickley

Cantor: Jodie Tooley

Reader:

Fellowship: Barbara Ovitt

ANNOUNCEMENTS for week of Sept. 24

- *Church and Civic Life* adult study Wednesday at 7 pm in the Library.
- GF Jazz Band rehearses at 7 pm in the Social Hall
- 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 Roseth, Elaine Rice, Jerry Harrison, Toni Sperle, Steven, Megan, Walt & Sandy, Scott, Haley Tempel.

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