**Highland Presbyterian Church**

April 21st, 2024

Creation Care Service

10:30 a.m.

A blue and green circle with text

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Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.

**Highland Presbyterian Church​** seeks to be a *diverse* and *inclusive* Christian Community as we embody the love and forgiveness of Jesus by serving the Community and the World, drawing people to Christ.



Prelude

**Gathering**

Welcome & Announcements Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

**Call to Worship**(**Responsive**)                                         Matia Lee

One: For the water that sustains us:

**All: We thank you Creator God.**

One: For the plants that breathe for us:

**All: We thank you Creator God.**

One: For the soil that nourishes us:

**All: We thank you Creator God**

One: For the light that guides us

and darkness that restores us:

**All: We thank you Creator God.**

One:  For the Earth that is a home for us

**All: We thank you Creator God. Let us worship God!**

\*Opening Hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful*  Hymn 20

Call to Confession Matia Lee

Prayer of Confession (**Communal**)

**Creator God, as we look at the world you have made, we notice that the songs of love that you wanted us to sing have turned into cries of abuse, oppression, and prejudice. We have abused the planet that you have provided for us to inhabit and to share with other creatures. We have wasted the water, abused other resources, limited access to food, and marked borders of inhospitality. We pray for this world in need of restoration and ask that you provide us with the tools and the intelligence needed to rebuild the world you created for us. Amen.**

A sheet music with text and notes

Description automatically generatedAssurance of Pardon

Time for the Children Diane Brown

**The Word**

**Prayer for Illumination** Matia Lee

Creator God, you spoke this world into being and you breathed life into all. Speak to us this morning so that we may feel the movement of the Holy Spirit and recognize you are creating something new in all of us. Be with us this day as we hear your word. Amen.

**Holy Scripture** read by the Sustainability Committee Genesis 1:1-2:4

Anthem  *All Creatures of our God and King* Highland Choir

Sermon “God’s Gift to Us” Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

Statement of Faith (Responsive). Excerpts from A Brief Statement of Faith (PC(USA))

In life and in death we belong to God.  Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God.  In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Minute for Mission Sustainability Committee Pam Clifford

Offertory

\*Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* Hymn 609

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures high and low.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving **(Communal)**

**Loving Creator, you looked at creation and said it was good. Each life is precious in your sight. Each creature and creation, carries your breath inside of it. As we offer our thanks for what sustains us, let our gifts serve as an offering and a way to care for your sacred world. As a practice of love, we pray, we give, and we work to make this world beautiful. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer**

Lord’s Prayer

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**.

**Sending**

\*Closing Hymn *God of the Sparrow* Hymn 22

\*Charge and Benediction Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

Postlude

**Free Little Neighborhood Item of the Week**

Our Free Little Neighborhood Item of the week is boxed meals. Next time you’re at the grocery store, please pick up any boxed meals that would be easy for a person to cook at home.

Weekly Schedule for April 21st – April 28th

Sunday, April 21 – Sunday Worship **10:30 a.m**. (Earth Care Service)

Worship Committee **11:30 a.m.**

Garden Blessing **11:30 a.m.**

Small & Mighty Youth **3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Athens, TN**

Gate Dance Party **5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall**

Monday –

Tuesday – Quilters **9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

Wednesday – OA- **1 p.m. Fellowship Hall** (Pastor Matthew Vacation, April 24th – 30th)

Thursday – Piano Practice **3:00 – 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary**

Friday –

Saturday –

Sunday, April 28 – Sunday Worship **10:30 a.m.** (Guest Preacher Rev. Susan Reisinger)

Mission Committee **11:30 a.m.**



