

Highland Presbyterian Church

April 21st, 2024
Creation Care Service
10:30 a.m.



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.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



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.

Assurance of Pardon

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
 2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
 F B^b E^b B^b Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
 C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
 Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

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.**

20 All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

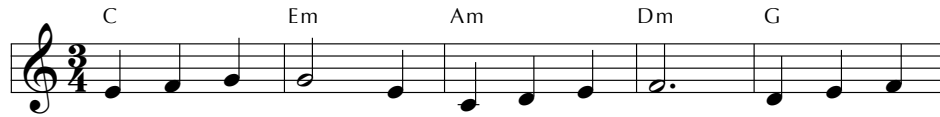
all things wise and won-der - ful, the Lord God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
 2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run-ning by,
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,
 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

God made their glow-ing col - ors; God made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky:
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

One of a series of hymns the author wrote for children on the Apostles' Creed, this text (originally in seven stanzas) expands "Maker of heaven and earth." The first stanza became the refrain when the text was later set to a popular tune from the age of King Charles II.

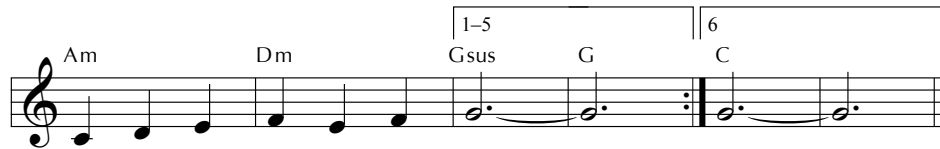
22 God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy



How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life
 How does the crea - ture say Peace
 How do your chil - dren say Home

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.