



16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 20, 2020, 10:30 am

PRELUDE

Psalm
played by Betty Dillashaw

by Abbe Stadler

WELCOME

PREPARE . . .

QUIET REFLECTION

TRINITY CHIME

CALL TO WORSHIP₁

Let us give thanks for the East, for the ancient hills and valleys and streams without end, for the green Atlantic from the reaches of Maine to the Florida Keys, for larch and hemlock, for black bear and mountain trout, for cardinals and eastern bluebirds, for heat in the hayfields of late August:

We bless you, O God, for the East.

Let us give thanks for the West, for soaring mountains and searing deserts, for waters roaring into the Pacific Ocean, for Columbia River salmon, snow buntings and western meadowlarks, for ponderosa and Jeffrey pine, for the mists of the Oregon coast and for the Olympic peninsula:

We bless you, O God, for the West.

Let us give thanks for the North, for the bright band of prairie and wheatfields stretching across the land, for the jayhawk and the loon, for the badlands of the Dakotas and the lakes of Minnesota, for northern pike and steeleye, for winding two-lane blacktops in the heart of Wyoming.

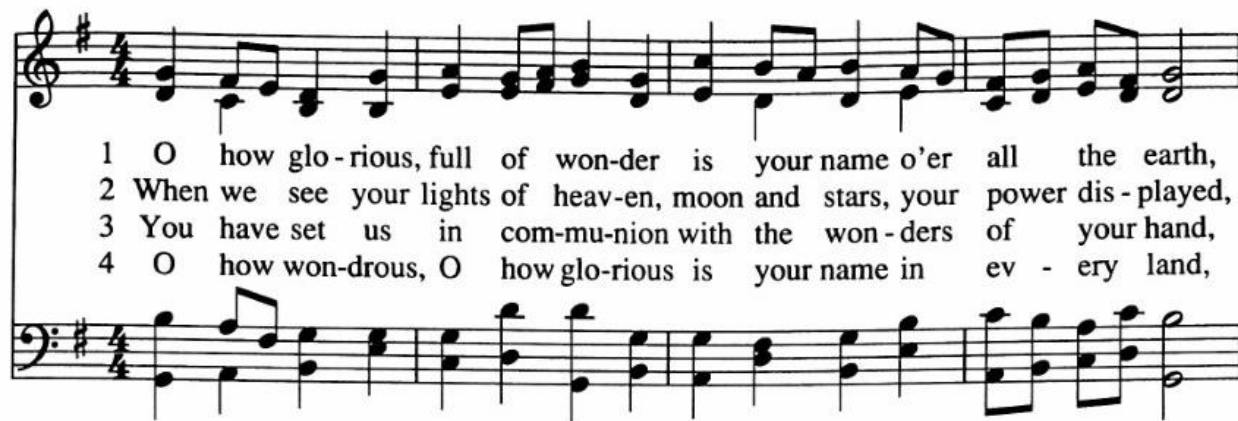
We bless you, O God, for the North

Let us give thanks for the South, for the broad Mississippi delta and the great Smoky Mountains, for the bayous of Louisiana, for magnolia trees, for the kiskadee and egret, for catfish and parrotfish and for the cotton and the colors on the sands and strands of the southland:

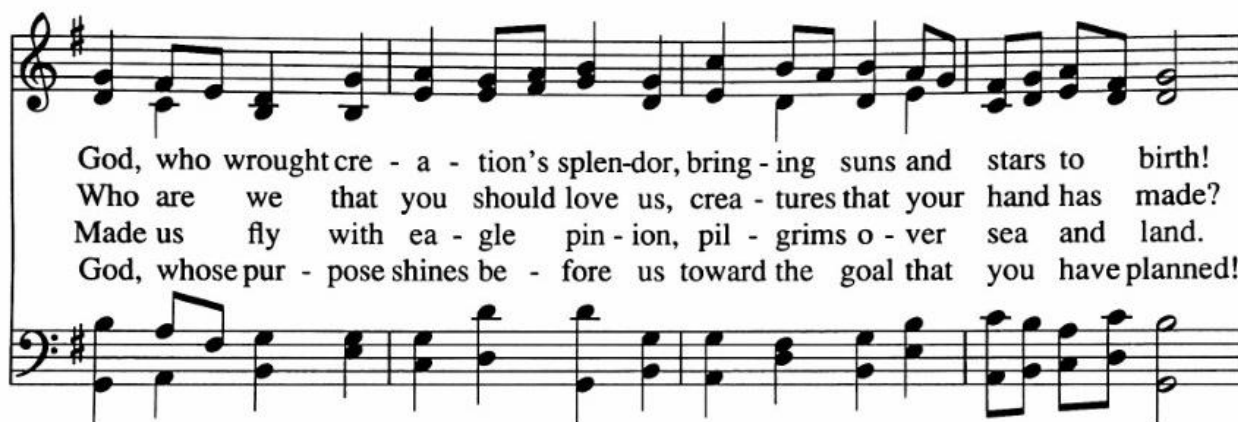
We bless you, O God, for the South.

Let us worship our God, who has created all things!

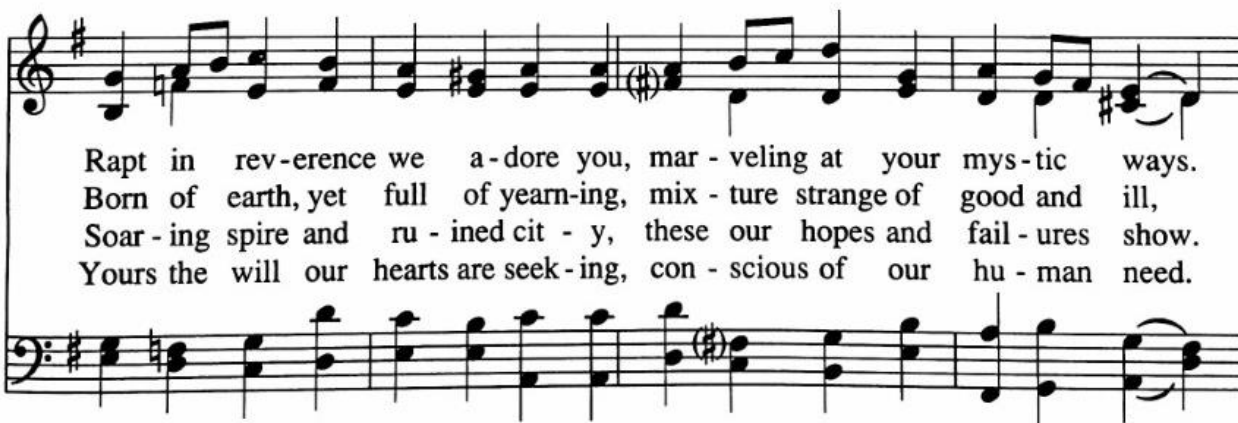
Thanks be to God!



1 O how glo - rious, full of won - der is your name o'er all the earth,
 2 When we see your lights of heav - en, moon and stars, your power dis - played,
 3 You have set us in com - mu - nion with the won - ders of your hand,
 4 O how won - drous, O how glo - rious is your name in ev - ery land,



God, who wrought cre - a - tion's splen - dor, bring - ing suns and stars to birth!
 Who are we that you should love us, crea - tures that your hand has made?
 Made us fly with ea - gle pin - ion, pil - grims o - ver sea and land.
 God, whose pur - pose shines be - fore us toward the goal that you have planned!



Rapt in rev - erence we a - dore you, mar - veling at your mys - tic ways.
 Born of earth, yet full of yearn - ing, mix - ture strange of good and ill,
 Soar - ing spire and ru - ined cit - y, these our hopes and fail - ures show.
 Yours the will our hearts are seek - ing, con - scious of our hu - man need.



Hum - bly now we bow be - fore you, lift - ing up our hearts in praise.
 From your ways so of - ten turn - ing, yet your love does seek us still.
 Teach us more of hu - man pit - y, that we in your im - age grow.
 Spir - it in our spir - it speak - ing, make us yours, O God, in - deed.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Apocalypse comes from the Greek: apo (un) and kaluptein (to cover).

Uncover us O God,

From our fierce abandonment of the common good.

Uncover us O God,

From our abiding disrespect for the land.

Uncover us O God,

From a haughty and unholy allegiance with money, power, and false security.

Uncover us O God,

From our inability to face the pain and thus our inability to create meaningful change.

Uncover us O God,

From our denial of the collective existential crisis that is climate change.

Uncover us O God,

Remind us that we belong to each other.

Uncover us O God,

Remind us that we cannot secure our own future without securing the collective good. And that this will require something that will feel like sacrifice but that will be our redemption. The first learning to be last as the valleys rise up.

Uncover us O God,

Remind us that we are your people. We share a spiritual lineage with the mystics and saints, rabble rousers & organizers. Help us to live into the better part of our heritage.

Uncover us O God,

For the sake of our children. For the sake of the Gospel. For the sake of our own souls.

Uncover us O God,

Remind us we follow one who gave his life for the sake of Love. May we be willing to risk as much.

Uncover us O God,

For these days until the end of days.

Amen.

HYMN #28

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX - Dance Circle

Producer: Maya Dotson-Smith

Music: Jeanette Smith

Zoom Practices: Smitty Dotson-Smith

Dancers: Sandy Clark, Faith Cook, Lynn Dingle, Teresa Luckman

Coordinator: Sandy Clark

LISTEN . . .

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Andrew Hoots

GOSPEL LESSON

MARK 1:9-13

If you respond to these words, then for you they have become the word of the still-speaking God. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Earth: Our Original Monastery

Rev. Dr. Kimberleigh Buchanan

RESPOND . . .

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

PRAYER OF JESUS

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come, We pray that your good will be done, Let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need, Give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, From each one to each one. Lead us to holy innocence Beyond the evil of our days — Come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One. (Parker Palmer)

OFFERING

HYMN

We Give You But Your Own
Sung by Larry Burke, Ty Moser,
Dorri Sherrill, and Marika Straw

SCHUMANN

PRAYER OF DEDICATION³

Almighty God, your love is immeasurable by human standards and unimaginable in a world that operates by means of mortal reasoning. Help us to change our minds, see with new eyes, and feel with open hearts so that we clearly understand the depth of your love for all humanity. In light of that new knowledge may we respond in kind, showing forth your love to the entire world through our thoughts and actions. With your guidance may we use these offerings as a seed which will grow to bear fruit for those we endeavor to serve. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN⁴

Take Off Your Shoes

Jim & Jean Strathdee

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

This Is the Lord's Own Day
played by Betty Dillashaw

K. Kreutzer

1. Jay Rochelle, <https://www.letallcreationpraise.org/liturgy/litanies>
2. Written by UCC pastor Ashley Popperson
3. Phil Adams
4. Words and Music © 1977, 2011 by Jim Manley, Desert Flower Music, One License A-715609

OUR MISSION

We believe God calls us to:

Embody a forward-thinking, courageous, and diverse Christian community.

Follow the ways of Jesus the Christ as a grace-filled, spiritual congregation. Practice affirming and radical hospitality.

Engage our local and global community with acts of love, mercy, peace, and justice.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 20th

9:00 am Virtual Sunday School

10:15 am The Gathering

10:30 am Worship (YouTube)

4:00 pm Virtual Coffee Hour

5:00 pm Earth Care & Peace Day Zoom Sing-a-long

Wednesday, September 23rd

12:00 pm Noon Prayer

Sunday, September 27th

9:00 am Virtual Sunday School

10:15 am The Gathering

10:30 am Worship (YouTube)

4:00 pm Virtual Coffee Hour

Announcements

People Raised in the South

The second series of sharing by people raised in the South will begin on Tuesdays at 1, Sept. 29, Oct. 13 and 27th. We will focus on southern music and literature. Almost all country music, gospel, bluegrass, and jazz artists got their start in church choirs. If you liked the movie "Oh Brother, How Art Thou?" look up Ralph Stanly and Bluegrass Gospel. We will also be listening to favorite Southern authors, hearing Faulkner on Sept. 29th. How did he portray race relations? If you missed the last ZOOM meetings of southerners, please join this fun, thoughtful group. E-mail Bonnie Schell at Bonniebelle1221@gmail.com to be on class mail list.

All Church Read/Book Study

The Racial Justice Team invites everyone to participate in the all-church read of *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad. In her introduction, here is what the author says about her book:

“This book is a one-of-a-kind personal antiracism tool structured to help people with white privilege understand and take ownership of their participation in the oppressive system of white supremacy. It is designed to help them take responsibility for dismantling the way that this system manifests, both within themselves and within their communities.”

Our study of this important book begins next week. Here are your options:

- Join Brenda Lewis as she leads the Sunday School group reflection at 9am on Sundays, starting on September 20 and ending on October 18.
- Allen Mullinax will lead a discussion group on Tuesdays at 3pm, starting on September 22 and going through October 20.
- Alice Martin-Atkins and Dorri Sherrill will facilitate a group on Wednesdays at 7pm, beginning on September 23 and ending on October 21.

The three groups will cover the same material, so you only need to participate in one group each week. However, you do not have to attend the same group each week. Let your schedule guide you!

In week one, we will discuss Part I of the book, “Welcome to the Work” (pp 1-27). In subsequent weeks, we will be looking at Part II, taking one week of that section at a time. As you read each section of Part II, you will be asked to journal your thoughts about each chapter. Please take the time to do this. Much of our reflection together will be taken from the thoughts and feelings we have journaled.

Though encouraged, having a copy of this book is not required for participating in the class. Come with or without the book! As of this writing, Malaprop’s has several copies in stock. If you do not have a book and want one, Sandy Clark has offered financial assistance with purchasing the book. If you are in need, please call Sandy at 740-361-3458. Thank you, Sandy, for your generous offer!

Today’s Service

Liturgist/Worship Leader:
Brenda Lewis

Lyrics Screens: **Casey Clark**
Video Editing: **Casey Clark**

Our Staff

Rev. Dr. Kimberleigh Buchanan, Senior Minister pastor@uccasheville.org
Rev. Andrew Hoots, Youth Ministry Coordinator
youth@uccasheville.org
Casey Clark, Administrative Coordinator,
admin@uccasheville.org
Anthony Sumner, Building and Groundskeeper
maint@uccasheville.org
Andrea Blankinship, Accountant
ncledgergirl@gmail.com