

Wonder Wednesday - April 22, 2020 - Earth Day

Opening:

Here I am to Worship

Light of the World you stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Here I am to Worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days so so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Here I am to Worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Well I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
Well I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

Here I am to Worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Shout to the Lord

My Jesus, my Savior Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

x2

Opening Prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Join us in this time of wonder and connection: connection to you, to one another, and to our planet. We pray that you would accept our heartfelt offerings and guide us in your truth and your light. We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us that the reality of our being is dependence upon you. Amen.

Centering thought: Shared by Jo Worthen

“The care of the earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope.” Wendell Berry

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies.
God of all to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light.
God of all to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

Joan's Offering: Joan would like for us to learn this song. So she is offering to us today to listen, to ponder and one day we will sing with her.

Holy Spirit

There's nothing worth more
That could ever come close
Nothing can compare
You're our living hope
Your presence, Lord
I've tasted and seen
Of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free
And my shame is undone
Your presence, Lord

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord
Your presence, Lord
2x

First Scripture: Psalms of Lament make up two-thirds of all Psalms.

There are individual lament psalms and there are communal lament psalms. We will ponder one of each.

Psalm 13

- 1 How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?
- 3 Look on me and answer, Lord my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,
- 4 and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.
- 5 But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
- 6 I will sing the Lord's praise,
for God has been good to me.

Wondering Reflection: What do you wonder? When you look at the words of this psalm - what words tug at your heart?

Psalm 90: 1-4; 12-17

(God's Eternity and Human Frailty: A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

3 You turn us back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

4 For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

12 So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

13 Turn, O Lord! How long?
Have compassion on your servants!

14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

15 Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,
and as many years as we have seen evil.

16 Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!

Wondering Reflection: What do you wonder? When you look at the words of this psalm - what words tug at your heart?

Prayer requests:

Prayers of joy for the generosity of so many: Liz Greenberg supports this church with her unfailing support of me - I am so grateful for her.

The generosity of Brad Pawl, Melanie and Alan's son. He designed ear protectors that hospital staff can use. He made them on his 3-D printer and is distributing them.

The generosity of those who extend their gratitude to our staff.

Today is Earth Day and it is also Administrative Assistant's Day - thank you Michelle! You are a gem!

Other prayer requests?

Prayer Song: ***Open the Eyes of my Heart, Lord***

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You.

2x

To see You high and lift up

Shinin' in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You.

2x

To see You high and lift up

Shinin' in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy I want to see You.

Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy I want to see You.

Let us pray together.

O Great Loving Creator, thank you for living and loving in us and through us. Thank you for this magnificent planet that you have entrusted us with, the place we call home.

May all that we do flow from our deep connection with you, with your created Earth and all creatures upon it.

Help us to overcome these feelings of isolation - and to embrace the reality of our interconnectedness.

Help us to become a community where we share one another's burdens and we guide one another in the quest of discipleship.

Listen to our longings of our hearts as we pray for the healing of our world.

(Moment of silence)

Knowing you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer our prayers in all the holy names of God, Amen.

Blessing

May our God of love bless you and keep you;

May our God of compassion look upon your face;

May our God of loving kindness be gracious unto you - and yours.

Sending Forth Song

How Great is our God

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty, Let all the Earth rejoice
All the Earth rejoice He wraps himself in light And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice Trembles at His voice

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God.

Age to age He stands And time is in His hands Beginning and the end
The Godhead Three in One Father Spirit Son The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God.

Name above all names Worthy of our praise My heart will sing
How great is our God
Name above all names Worthy of our praise My heart will sing
How great is our God

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God.