

March 8, 2025 We Gather to Worship

Prelude

"It Is Well With My Soul"

arr. Larry Sue

*Call to Worship

Ruling Elder Angela Van Heest (Kalamazoo First)

We invite the skies to worship with us: the subtle orange skies at dawn and the bold red skies at sunset.

We join the heavens in praising God: proclaiming God's glory across the globe and hailing God's name with the evening stars.

We join with the atmosphere in worship: the air, the moisture, the oxygen, the wind and all the expressions of God's Spirit.

We call the clouds to celebrate with storms: to carry the life-giving drops of rain, that give hope and healing to Earth.

We invite the winds to join our petitions: to carry our prayers to God above and breathe our hopes to Christ in person.

We celebrate the song of the skies! Let us worship God together!

*Hymn #292 As the Wind Song

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

In the face of the warming of the Earth, rising sea levels, shrinking ice caps, and dispossessed peoples, we confess that by our actions and inaction, we have contributed to changes in our climate. For our excessive use of motor vehicles

Forgive us Lord

For our waste of energy and water Forgive us Lord For our rampant consumerism Forgive us Lord For our failure to embrace renewable energy resources

¹ "Sky Sunday." Season of Creation. 2018.

Rev. John Best (HR)

Forgive us Lord For our lack of respect for our oceans and forests Forgive us Lord For our complacency and apathy Forgive us Lord

Silence

Assurance of God's Love and Sharing in Christ's Peace

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! Believe in the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. The Peace of Christ be with you. And also with you!

We Hear the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Ruling Elder Rick Foster (Richland First)

Rev. John Best (HR)

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings	Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:16-21	Rev. Dr. Patricia Tull
Message	"Everything Old is New Again"	Rev. Dr. Patricia Tull

We Respond to the Word

*Hymn #761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Receiving A Candidate Under Care CandidateRev. Paul Van Kempen (Holland First)Nathan Martins (Battle Creek First)Rev. Paul Van Kempen (Holland First)

Do you believe yourself to be called by God to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament? **I do**.

Do you promise in reliance upon the grace of God to maintain a Christian character and conduct, and to be diligent and faithful in making full preparation for this ministry?

I do.

Do you accept the proper supervision of the presbytery in matters that concern your preparation for this ministry?

I do.

Do you desire now to be received by this presbytery as a candidate for the ministry of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

I do.

Charge

Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. These are the things you must insist on and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers a example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. (1 Tim. 4:7b-12)

² "Climate Sunday" Season of Creation.

³II Corinthians 5:17 NRSVU

⁴ The Book of Common Worship (Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 1993). Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press

Prayer

Let us pray: God of prophets and apostles, you have chosen leaders to train your people in the way of Jesus Christ. We thank you that in our day you are still claiming your people for special work within the church. As Nathan has dedicated their self to you, let us pledge ourselves to them so that, surrounded by affection and hope, they may grow in wisdom, mature in love, and become a faithful worker, approved by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offering

The offering today is designated to support the PCUSA Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice.

Offertory

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; **Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

All of creation belongs to you, God. Let us never consume in such a way as to suggest that we deserve more than others. Rather, let us live our lives in clear acknowledgment that all you have created is intended to sustain all you have created. Take these gifts that we now offer back to you and use them to feed the world with your love, peace, and security. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.⁵

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving The Lord be with you, and also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to God. Let us give thanks to God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The prayer continues...

Therefore we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.

The prayer continues...

Merciful God, send now, in kindness your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and cup and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And let that same Spirit rest on us,

Ruling Elder Kent Workman (Okemos)

Rev. Kristin Stroble

Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce (Grand Haven First)

converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share. And with the confidence of children we pray together...

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.

Words of Institution

Prayer After Communion

*Hymn #44

Like A Mother Who Has Borne Us

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Dr. Patricia Tull

Postlude

Thank you to all those who participated in leading worship today. All those who participated in worship today are members of Earth Care Congregations.

Musicians: Organist: Tamar Mikeladze The Capital City Ringers (Lorraine Finison, Shannon Quinn, Laura Sparks, Kristin Stroble)