

Flowers are given by Chuck Jarman in loving memory of **Joe Heckman**.

PRELUDE

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

arr. Mark Hayes

CALL to WORSHIP

One: The mystics say if we only uttered this one prayer, “Thank you,” it would be enough.

**Many: Thank you for food that sustains us and the roof over our head sheltering us.**

One: Thank you for people who are willing to keep tuning into online worship week after week in this strange time.

**Many: Thank you for those who serve on Teams, provide meals the fourth Tuesday of each month, pull weeds, attend hard and holy discussions on Zoom, lead us in singing, and countless other ways we seek to be the body of Christ.**

One: Thank you for sacred love embodied in phone calls and cards.

**Many: Thank you, O God, for this day You have made.**

One: Let us join our voices in singing out to the One who awakens our song.

**Many: It is good to gather here. Alleluia and Amen.**

OPENING HYMN:

*Thank You for this Day*

**Thank you for this day, Lord, Thank you for this day.**

**Thank you for this day, Oh Lord, Thank you for this day.**

**This heal-ing, this heal-ing, this heal-ing day,**

**This heal-ing, this heal-ing, this heal-ing day.**

**Thank you for these friends, Lord, Thank you for these friends.**

**Thank you for these friends, Oh Lord, Thank you for these friends.**

**These loving, these loving, these loving friends.**

**These loving, these loving, these loving friends.**

**Thank you for this life, Lord, Thank you for this life.**

**Thank you for this life, Oh Lord, Thank you for this life.**

**The bless-ing, the bless-ing, the blessing of life.**

**The bless-ing, the bless-ing, the blessing of life.**

**Thank you for this church, Lord, Thank you for this church.**

**Thank you for this church, Oh Lord, Thank you for this church.**

**This caring, this caring, this caring church.**

**This caring, this caring, this caring church.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Self-giving, generous, and generative God, we give You thanks that You call us together. We confess that our hearts don't always feel so grateful right now. In our defense, a pandemic, political election, polarization, persistent humidity, and just feeling like the world has gone off the rails makes giving thanks seem very foolish. Yet, You know our struggles and strains. You know our chaos and confusion. You know that life is rarely perfect. Remind us again that in the beginning, You called creation not, “The best**

invention ever!” Remind us that humanity wasn’t called, “The most brilliant and bold idea to ever be constructed.” You called and still call creation *and us*, “Good.” Awaken us to the goodness that surrounds us and stirs within us. In the name of the One who was sent to help us be open to Your original blessing, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

OUR ENCOUNTER with SCRIPTURE

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

<sup>13</sup> But we always must thank God for you, brothers and sisters who are loved by God. This is because he chose you from the beginning to be the first crop of the harvest. This brought salvation, through your dedication to God by the Spirit and through your belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup> God called all of you through our good news so you could possess the honor of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup> So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold on to the traditions we taught you, whether we taught you in person or through our letter. <sup>16</sup> Our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and a good hope. <sup>17</sup> May he encourage your hearts and give you strength in every good thing you do or say.

SERMON

*Goodness?*

HYMN

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

No. 28

**For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,**

***Refrain:* 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, (*Refrain*)**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, (*Refrain*)**

**For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,  
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed, (*Refrain*)**

PASTORAL 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.**

CLOSING HYMN

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

No. 425

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For God’s gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth’s safekeeping, thanks be to God.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,**

**For the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Fanfare*

John Cook