

PRELUDE: *All Things Bright and Beautiful* arr. Robert Smith

OPENING WORDS: *With deep appreciation to Rev. Dr. Sarah Melcher for her insights.*

OPENING HYMN: *O How Glorious, Full of Wonder* #558

**O how glorious, full of wonder is your name o'er all the earth,  
God, who wrought creation's splendor, bringing suns and stars to birth!  
Rapt in reverence we adore you, marveling at your mystic ways.  
Humbly now we bow before you, lifting up our hearts in praise.**

**When we see your lights of heaven, moon and stars, your power displayed,  
Who are we that you should love us, creatures that your hand has made?  
Born of earth, yet full of yearning, mixture strange of good and ill,  
From your ways so often turning, yet your love does seek us still.**

**O how wondrous, O how glorious is your name in every land,  
God, whose purpose shines before us toward the goal that you have planned!  
Yours the will our hearts are seeking, conscious of our human need.  
Spirit in our spirit speaking, make us yours, O God, indeed.**

OPENING PRAYER:

**Creating and crafting God, Your artistic imagination is at play all around us. From the song of birds to the silence of trees slowly growing; from the fireworks display of colors in flowers to the peacefulness when we sit still by a rushing river; Creation is Your first testament to life. Yet, we have been too quick to cut, chop, and cling to consumerism as the way to life. We refuse responsibility. We want to believe that because we recycle all is okay. Holy One, we have not tended to Your creation as was Your prayer in the beginning. We confess we do not want to hear the hurt and harm as the world groans under our demands. We confess that we don't often talk about the ways our treatment of creation wounds You, O Creator. We need a new vision and need Your strength to change our ways. Crack through our complacency and call us to be stewards of the world You so love. Ground us in the truth that there is soil and stardust in our souls, that how we treat our planet is how we treat ourselves. Let these words roam and rummage around our lives now in this moment of silent prayer.**

*Silent Prayer*

REASSURANCE:

OUR ENCOUNTER with SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:36-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you

anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

SERMON

*Showing up and Opening Up*

AFFIRMATION of FAITH

We believe in God, Creator of all:

The two-legged, the four-legged,

The winged ones, and those that crawl upon

The earth and swim in the waters.

We believe in God, One who Walked with Us:

Our Brother Jesus born in humility,

Who lived and died for us and

Who will come again to bring us to glory.

We believe in God, Spirit with Us:

Ever present and ever guiding, upholding us and

Showing us the principles to live by.

We hear God’s voice through the prophets.

Creator, One who walked with us, Spirit with us.

Holy One:

We are named in the waters of baptism as your own,

All of us related, all of us your children.

We watch for signs of your homecoming

And thank you for this sacred circle of life. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

*Affirmation from “Daily Prayer for All Seasons”*

SERMON HYMN

*To You, O God, All Creatures Sing*

#17

**To you, O God, all creatures sing, and all creation, everything  
Sings your praises, alleluia! Your burning sun with golden beam,  
Your silver moon with softer gleam sing your praises,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**To you, O God, day after day, your planet earth in every way,  
Sings your praises, alleluia, As savory fruit and fragrant flower  
Show forth your glory and your power, singing praises,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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

*How Great Thou Art*

**O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

*Refrain:*     **Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
                  how great thou art, how great thou art!  
                  Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
                  how great thou art, how great thou art!**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze; *Refrain***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Psalm XIX – the Heavens Are Telling*

Benedetto Marcello