

Flowers are given by Kathie Stewart  
in memory of **James Graham Stewart** and **James Keller Stewart**.

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

INTROIT *I Walk In Beauty* trad. Navajo

**I walk in beauty, beauty is before me.  
Beauty is behind me, above, and below me.**

INVITATION

OPENING HYMN: *To You, O God, All Creatures Sing* #17

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

**Your wind that blows the tempest by, Your clouds that sail across the sky  
Sing Your praises, alleluia!  
Your morning rises with the song, and lights of evening sing along.  
Sing your praises alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Your flowing waters, crystal clear, make melodies for You to hear  
Sing Your praises, alleluia!  
Your fire...bountiful and bright, remembering your warmth and light,  
Sing your praises alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**To You, O God, day after day, Your planet earth in every way  
Sing Your praises, alleluia!  
As savory fruit and fragrant flower show forth Your Glory and Your power.  
Sing your praises alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

OPENING PRAYER

**God who delights in puzzles that perplex; contradictions that can be comfortable sitting side-by-side; and holy truths that won't easily fit into a five-step plan. We confess, O God, Your way is not our way. Our hearts are caught between wanting solid ground and realizing that life is a mystery to be lived. Our minds want answers we can understand and we know that often the most honest inquiries just lead to more questions. Sit with us, O God, in this moment. Help us begin to give voice to the questions we have. And may we know that it is in exploration that we begin to experience glimpses of grace that keep us going. In the name of the One whose wisdom causes us to scratch and shake our heads, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

CELEBRATION of CREATION JUSTICE DESIGNATION & DEDICATION of BANNER

**We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflowers growing.  
 For we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.  
 With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,  
 That all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.**

## ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

John 3:1-21

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."  
<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

## SERMON

*The Beauty of the Unknown*

## ANTHEM

*God So Loved the World*

John Stainer

## PASTORAL PRAYER &amp; 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

*As Moses Raised the Serpent Up*

tune: St. Anne

**As Moses raised the serpent up, God's Child is lifted high.  
And all who in that Child believe shall never, never die.**

**For God so loved the world that God, all human life to free,  
Gave to the world God's Child that all might live eternally.**

**That Child was sent into the world not to condemn but save;  
Now through Christ's name all are redeemed what wondrous love God gave.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Postlude in C Major*

Arthur Foote

Usher/Greeters: Cindy and Dale Woodling

Bus Driver: Jerry Oliver