

May 22, 2022

Endangered Species Day

11 a.m.

Alter flowers are given by Dottie Peterson, in memory of her loving husband, **Chuck Peterson** and her son, **Steve Brooks**

PRELUDE

*Air*

J. S. Bach

CALL to WORSHIP:

One: In the beginning God creatively called forth all that is.

**Many: God delighted and described all creation as, "Good."**

One: From butterflies fluttering to deer leaping to mice scurrying to sea turtles effortlessly swimming to alligators peeking and peering from swampy places.

**Many: Good.**

One: From the bald eagle in lofty flight to the gopher tortoise digging a deep burrow.

**Many: Good.**

One: From the tiniest atom that existed in the time of dinosaurs that still exists today in the circle of life.

**Many: Good.**

One: Creation was and still is God's first testament to who God is and what God is doing in the world today.

**Many: As we celebrate our Creator, Christ, and Enlivening Spirit, we honor the web of mutuality that remains God's prayer for the world. Alleluia and Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN

*God of the Sparrow God of the Whale*

#32

**God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars.**

**How does the creature say Awe? How does the creature say Praise?**

**God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast.**

**How does the creature cry Woe? How does the creature cry Save?**

**God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave.**

**How does the creature say Grace? How does the creature say Thanks?**

**God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of prodigal.**

**How does the creature say Care? How does the creature say Life?**

**God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook.**

**How does the creature say Love? How does the creature say Peace?**

**God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart.**

**How do your children say Joy? How do your children say Home?**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Web-of-life weaving, God, we pray that You would entangle us and open our awareness of how interconnected life is. We celebrate You for the diversity of life, Your creativity imagined from manatees to Aspen trees where the roots are so twisted that they nurture each other's growth. We honor You, O God, of Siesta Beach sand soft and sticking between our toes. We confess to You, O God, that our ways are not Your ways. We know that we cannot control the weather and we are afraid. We know that we too often rate and**

**rank creation with humans at the top of the pyramid and everything else beneath us. We confess that often in our relentless pursuit of profit, we have valued bank accounts and comfort over living with creation. For scientists who are trying to help restore right relationships, open our ears. For leaders in our country who want to do more than talk, show them the way. For those who prefer to trample on what You call, “Good and holy,” break through their hearts. For our complicity and inability to live differently, deliver us to a new way. On this Endangered Species Sunday, open our sacred imaginations that how we treat Your creation says much about how we treat You, O God. Hear now Your children praying and move in our midst in new ways we pray.**

HYMN

*A Sower Came from Ancient Hills*

**A Sower came from ancient hills and cast good seed abroad: his field, ten thousand human hearts; his seed, the word of God. And some who listened would not hear, and some who heard forgot. But some received in fertile soil the truth the Sower taught.**

**O Christ, you come among us still, the Sower and the Seed. As once you sowed the truth of God in glowing word and deed, implant your Word in waiting hearts, and let it there take hold, until it bears in fruitful lives a harvest hundred-fold.**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!”

SERMON

Bad Farming Practices: Part 1 ~ Scattering Seeds with Gusto

ANTHEM

*The Tree of Life*

K. Lee Scott

PASTORAL PRAYER & NEW ZEALAND VERSION of THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of Your name echoes through the universe; The way of Your justice be followed by the peoples of the world; Your heavenly will be done by all created beings; Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trial too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For You reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling take leave. The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe. The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for God's realm and to answer the call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living, the tasks of our everyday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children of each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us, unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.**

BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE

*The Horn Pipe*

G. F. Handel