

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021
Crosscreek Baptist Church

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Opportunities to Connect

Centering

A Blessing of Peace

Chiming of the Hour and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lord's Prayer & Call to Worship Litany—Ron Prevatte

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Worship

(Light print read by leader; **bold print read by congregation.**)

Out of nowhere, time, and space, God speaks and the living whirl forth.

His voice brings order to chaos, light to darkness, and life to emptiness.

The crown of His creation is a new creature,

a creature that can sound the heartbeat of its Creator.

Divine breath and sculpted earth come together to make up the living soul.

We are created to join God in His work of creation.

Hearing

Hymn of Praise: 307—All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou, burning sun with golden beam
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou Rushing Wind That Art So Strong,
Ye Clouds That Sail In Heaven Along,
O Praise Him, Alleluia!
Thou Rising Morn, In Praise Rejoice,
Ye Lights Of Evening, Find A Voice,
O Praise Him, O Praise Him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

A Reading from the Gospels: John 1:1-5—Anna Ford

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

This is the word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

A Moment for Children—Patsy Jeffcoat

A Time of Reflection

As to his gospel, Jesus Christ came into the world as the image of the invisible God to communicate to us that not only did we not need to be afraid of God, but that God is more for us than we are ourselves or one another. God's love is infinite, and unstoppable, and will win! - Richard Rohr

Offertory

Worship in Song: Kaye Slanker

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-2:4— Mindy Jeffcoat

When God sat out to create heaven and earth, there was nothing but nothing and God's breath hovering over the deep.

First, God said, "Let there be light."

And light broke forth, and God saw that it was good, and God divided the light - day - from the darkness - night, and thus the first day ended.

Then God spoke: "Let there be space between the waters above and below." And there was space. God called it Sky and evening turned into morning and that was the second day.

And God said: "Let the water down below be together. Let dry ground rise up." And it happened just so. God called the ground land and the gathered waters seas and saw that it was good.

But God wasn't done on that day yet. God spoke again: "Let the land make plants and let them be sustaining. Let trees rise up, planting themselves through seeds." And it happened just so - every plant and every tree grew and each had its own seed to fall and bud and continue the cycle. God saw that it was good. And evening turned into morning and that was day three.

God said: "Let's have some order to the lights in this expanse. Let's have them serve to help order the days and dawn light on the earth." And what do you know? It was just so. There were then two great lights. One for day and one for night. And also the stars. And it was put just so to give light to earth, to rule over day and night, to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And evening and morning - it was day four.

God said, "This water is too empty. Let it be full of life. And this sky as well, let it teem with life." So the great sea creatures came forth - everything that fills the seas and wiggles in the waters. All the birds that fly lifted up as well. And God saw it was good and God blessed them, saying: "Multiply! Be bountiful! Fill up the waters and the sky the both of you!" And evening and morning - day five.

God said, "Okay, land, it's your turn! All kinds of living creatures, tamed and wild, break forth!" And so it happened. All the animals wild and livestock came forth. And God saw it was good.

But God was just getting started, "Let's make humans so that they are like us! They can tend the fish and the birds and the livestock and the wild animals. They can rule over it all!"

So humanity came forth in God's likeness.

Created to be like God.

Created as male and female.

God blessed them, too. He spoke to the humans, saying, "Have children and multiply! Fill this good earth up and tend it well! Tend the fish and the birds, the creatures of the ground."

And God continued, "All this self sustaining goodness is for you - the plants and the trees are for you to eat. And also for the animals! Let everything that has breath eat from this goodness!" And that is exactly what happened.

God saw it all. And it was very good. Then evening and morning, day six.

Then it was all done, it was completed, it was good. And on the seventh day, God rested from the work. This rest, too, was blessed and made holy, a sacred space for all to breathe. A space to rest in the goodness of it all.

This is the word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Devotion: 7—Worthy of Worship

Worthy of worship, worthy of praise,
Worthy of honor and glory;
Worthy of all the glad songs we sing,
Worthy of all the offerings we bring.

You are worthy, Father, Creator.
You are worthy, Savior, Sustainer.
You are worthy, worthy and
wonderful;
Worthy of worship and praise.

Almighty Father, Master and Lord,
King of all kings and Redeemer,
Wonderful Counselor, Comforter, Friend,
Savior and Source of our life without end.

You are worthy, Father, Creator.
You are worthy, Savior, Sustainer.
You are worthy, worthy and
wonderful;
Worthy of worship and praise.

Sermon - Brandon Hudson

"In God's Hands: Goodness"

Responding

Silence and Meditation

Behold the One beholding you and smiling." It is precisely because we have such an overactive disapproval gland ourselves that we tend to create God in our own image. It is truly hard for us to see the truth that disapproval does not seem to be part of God's DNA. God is just too busy loving us to have any time left for disappointment. - Gregory Boyle

Hymn of Response: 323—How Great Thou Art

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

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:

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!

Benediction and Blessing

Hymn of Parting: An Old Irish Blessing

(Words & music may be found in the back of the hymnal.)

Postlude