



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Seek, Serve, Embrace | Engaging with neighbors near and far in Christ's love

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

In Celebration of God's Creation | May 21, 2023, 10:00 am

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

Carol McDonald

PRELUDE

"Earth and All Stars" | *David Johnson arr. Charles Ore (b. 1936); Charles Manning, Organ*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol McDonald and Keane Ricchiuto

Creator God, you have placed your glory above the highest clouds.
Great is your name, O God.

Divine Creator, your name echoes around the earth!

Tiny babies babble their praise to you and young children sing in joy;
their noisy praise drowns out the sound of opposing voices.

Divine Creator, your name echoes around the earth!

When we gaze at the night sky with all its works and wonders,
we question:

What are mortals that you pay any attention to us?

Divine Creator, your name echoes around the earth!

Yet you have made us a little less than divine,
you crowned us with glory and honor and you call us
caregivers of your creation!

Divine Creator, your name echoes around the earth!

**For those who are able, please stand.*



*HYMN

"How Holy Is Your Name, O Lord" | *SOLID ROCK*



1. How ho - ly is your name, O Lord; in maj - es - ty you
2. Be - neath the won - ders of your hand, the u - ni - verse that
3. Yet you have giv - en us such grace— a shin - ing crown, an



rule the world. Your glo - ry fills all time and space, yet
you com - mand, who are we that you care for us, mere
hon - ored place— en - trust - ing all things to our care: the



low - ly in - fants sing your praise. How ho - ly is your name, O Lord;
mor - tals, made of breath and dust? earth, and air.
life of o - cean,



in maj - es - ty you rule the world. How ho - ly is your name, O Lord!

*LITANY OF GRATITUDE

We live in all things. All things live in us.

We rejoice in all life.

Choir: We live by the sun. We move with the stars.

We eat from the earth. We drink from the rain.

We breathe from the air.

All: We rejoice in all life.

Higher voices: We share with the creatures. We have strength through their gifts.

We depend on the forests. We have knowledge through their secrets.

All: We rejoice in all life.

Lower voices: We have the privilege of seeing and understanding. We have the responsibility of caring and the joy of celebrating.

All: We are full of the grace of creation. We are graceful. We are grateful.

We rejoice in all life.



ANTHEM

"God is Seen" | *American Folk arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925); Chancel Choir*

Through all the world below God is seen all around,
search hills and valleys through, there He's found.
The growing of the corn, the lily and the thorn, the pleasant and forlorn,
all declare God is there, in meadows drest in green, God is seen.

See springing waters rise, fountains flow, rivers run,
the mist that veils the sky hides the sun.
Then down the rain doth pour, the ocean it doth roar and beat upon the shore,
and all praise in their ways, the God who ne'er declines His designs.

The sun with all its rays speaks of God as he flies
the comet in her blaze, "God", she cries;
the shining of the stars, the moon, when she appears, His awful name declares;
see them fly through the sky, and join the solemn sound all around.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches.
Your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals.
Forgive us – open our eyes.

Your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants.
Your creatures are slowly dying and your people are suffering.
Forgive us – open our eyes.

God our maker, we are sorry and repent for the careless use of your creation.
Forgive us and help us to live in new ways.

*SILENT CONFESSION

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In the beginning, God created.
God created heavenly beings on earth.
Where we lurk in the shadows, God's mercy sheds the light of renewal.
Where the chaos of disregard exists, God's love brings the way of compassion.
God says, "It is good." We are good.
Let us go forth and do good as forgiven people.

*RESPONSE HYMN NO. 21

"Many and Great, God, Are Thy Works" | LACQUIPARLE

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

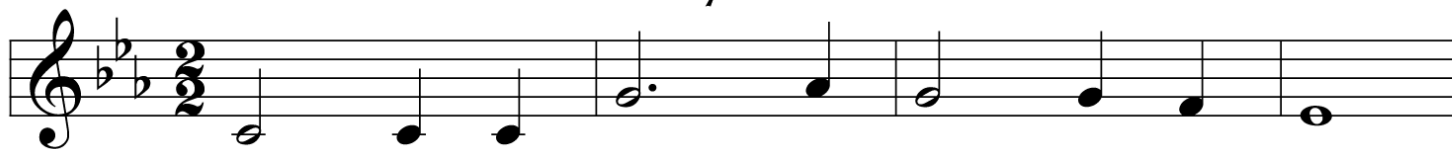
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

(Worshippers may greet one another with words of Christ's peace.)



Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works

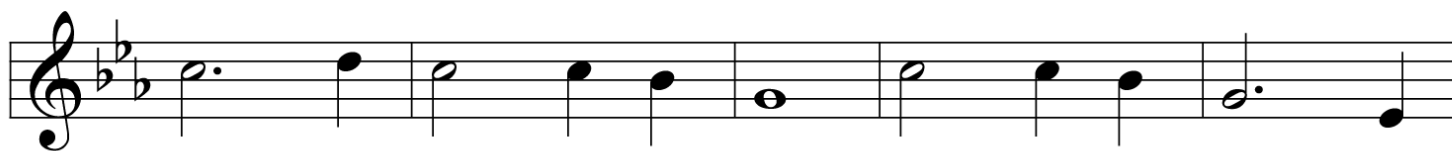
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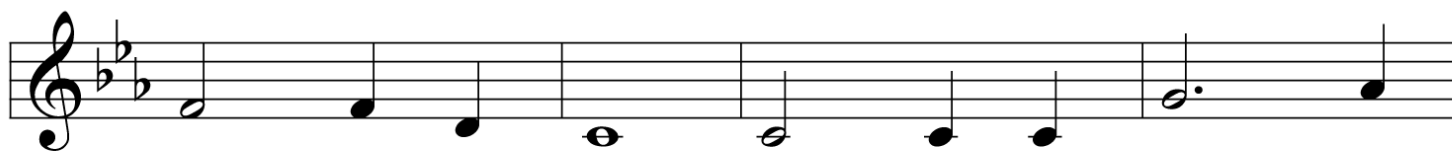
1 Man - y and great, O God, are thy works,
2 Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with thee,



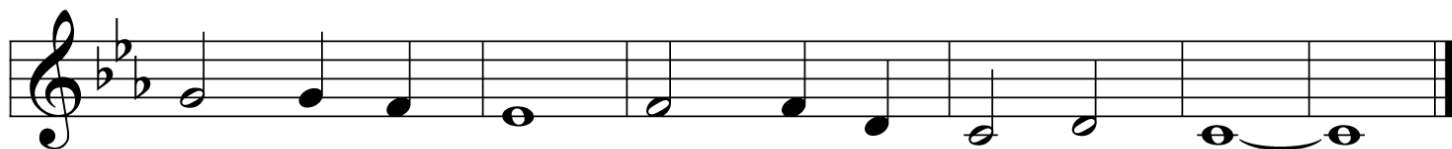
Mak - er of earth and sky. Thy hands have
thou star - a - bid - ing One. Come un - to



set the heav - ens with stars; thy fin - gers spread the
us and dwell with us. With thee are found the



moun - tains and plains. Lo, at thy word the
gifts of life. Bless us with life that



wa - ters were formed. Deep seas o - bey thy voice.
has no end, e - ter - nal life with thee.

CHILDREN'S TIME

"Sowing Summer Fun" | *Melissa Hopkins*

(Offerings added to the Joyful Noise Pail are for mission partner Heifer International.)
Children are dismissed to Church School.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON & HYMN

Keane Ricchiuto, Rosalynn Lancaster, and Mason King

"With Dazzling Light" | *RADIANT CITY; Sam Spade, Soloist*

Genesis 1: 1-8

Genesis 1: 9-25

Genesis 1: 26-31

Genesis 2: 1-3



Soloist 1. With daz - zling light, the dark - ness broke, in sear - ing heat and
Choir 2. As flam - ing min - erals heaved and cooled, the moun - tains reared their
All 3. The bril - liance flung from an - cient stars still throbs with - in each
All 4. So we, with - in this shin - ing web, en - dowed by sure and



soar - ing pow'r, as mat - ter streaked through realms of night to
lof - ty peaks. Ma - jes - tic, gla - cial mass - es moved and
liv - ing cell. The surge and salt of cours - ing blood re -
skill - ful hands, here kneel as stew - ards, charged in love to



blaze cre - a - tion's dawn - ing hour. Through vault - ing firm - a - ments of
melt - ed in - to ris - ing seas. By wa - ter, rock, and Spir - it's
peat the o - cean's rhyth - mic swell. The gen - tlest breeze, the soft - est
tend our kin - dred seas and lands— un - til by Word and Spir - it's



time and curv - ing sweeps of stel - lar space, God's bound - less
fire, each liv - ing crea - ture came to birth as Ho - ly
rain, the swirl and rush of storm - tossed skies re - spond to
fire shall come the fi - nal, clar - ion call, God's vast de -



Wis - dom spun its web of in - tri - cate and pat - terned grace.
Mys - t'ry knelt in love to hew and hone the jew - eled earth.
puls - es far a - way: the sub - tle wings of but - ter - flies.
sign at last un - furled: and Wis - dom shall be all in all!



SECOND LESSON

Mark 4: 1-9 (p. 38)

SERMON

"Sowing, Growing, Acting" | Carol McDonald

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Creation Creed | Presbyterian Church of Australia

**We believe that God creates all things, renews all things,
and celebrates all things.**

**We believe Earth is a sanctuary,
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,
a home for us to share with all creatures.**

We believe every creature joins us in praising God.

We see many suffer with Earth because of human crimes against creation.

**We believe that God became incarnate as a part of Earth, that Jesus Christ lived
and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings
and for all creation.**

**We believe that the risen Christ fills the whole creation,
reconciling all things to God, renewing all things.**

**We believe the Spirit renews life in creation,
groans in empathy with every suffering creature,
and waits with us for the rebirth of the whole creation.**

**We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ
we will celebrate a new creation,
reconciled, restored, and renewed.**

CALL TO PRAYER

"Mothering God" | Janet Peachey (b. 1960); Chancel Choir

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, Source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light.
Grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close,
So that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know.

(Julian of Norwich, 14th century)



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy 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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

"The Heavens are Telling" (from *The Creation*) | Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809);
Chancel Choir

The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The wonder of his work displays the firmament.
The day that is coming speaks to the day,
the night that is gone to following night.

The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The wonder of his work displays the firmament.
In all the lands resounds the word, never unperceived, ever understood,
ever, ever, ever understood.

The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

*DOXOLOGY

"All Creatures of Our God and King" | *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

O brother wind with clouds and rain,
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain. Alleluia! Alleluia!
O sister water, flowing clear, make music for your Lord to hear.
O Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God, we are surrounded by the beauty of creation. We are supported by the abundance of creation. We gratefully receive your gifts of love and life – gifts which fill our lives with joy and satisfaction.

In thankful response to your generosity, we place before you pieces of ourselves and of your creation – energy from the moments of our life, money from the skills you give, and our abundance to share with others. Receive them as signs of our love and gratitude. Amen.



WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

"For Beauty of Meadows" | ST. DENIO

1. For beau - ty of mead - ows, for gran - deur of trees,
2. As stew - ards of beau - ty re - ceived at your hand,
3. Teach us once a - gain to be gar - deners in peace;

for flow - ers of wood - lands, for crea - tures of seas,
as crea - tures who hear your most ur - gent com - mand,
all na - ture a - round us is ours but on lease;

for all you cre - at - ed and gave us to share,
we turn from our waste - ful de - struc - tion of life,
your name we would hal - low in all that we do,

we praise you, Cre - a - tor, ex - tol - ling your care.
con - fess - ing our fail - ures, con - fess - ing our strife.
ful - fill - ing our call - ing, cre - at - ing with you.

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

This we know - the earth does not belong to us,
we belong to the earth.

This we know - all things are connected,
Like the blood that unites one family.

Bless to us, O God, the moon that is above us,
the earth that is beneath us,
the friends who are around us,
your image deep within us. Amen



CHORAL RESPONSE

"Now I Walk In Beauty" | *Traditional Navajo*, arr. Gregg Smith (1931-2016); Chancel Choir

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

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

The anthem "God Is Seen" is taken from shape notebooks, early American compilations of scores in which the note heads are printed in one of seven different shapes to indicate a place on the scale. Shape note singing societies flourished in early America and continue in popularity today, particularly in the northeastern and southeastern sections of the country. "God Is Seen," a secular tune, was originally published in *The Southern Harmony*, a compilation of hymns, tunes, psalms, and songs by William Walker in 1834, under the title CAPTAIN KIDD. It was also included in *The Sacred Harp* collection, first published by Benjamin White in 1844.

The poem speaks of God's presence in all of existence, from the cultivated field to the rivers and oceans, and finally to the heavens. Arranger Alice Parker (born 1925) has influenced a generation of singers and conductors via her singing techniques books, lectures, and recordings. As a composer, she has written operas, cantatas, sacred anthems, song cycles, and string quartets.

Our Call to Prayer, "Mothering God," is a hymn arrangement that makes use of feminine imagery in depicting God to help us understand and celebrate God's creation and nurture of humanity. The opening line, "Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of the world" is a statement of recognition and thanksgiving of God's creative act in Genesis. Stanza two recognizes that Christ, God incarnate in human form, bears a similarity to the role of mother in human interaction. Note the connection with communion ("Grain of life, grape of love"). Stanza three speaks of a mothering aspect of the Spirit in the work of continuing nurture and intimacy, and growing in faith. The music was composed by American Janet Peachey (born 1963), who currently teaches music theory and composition at Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D. C. The poem was written by Julian of Norwich (1342 – 1416), Christian mystic and writer of *The Revelations of Divine Love*, which is regarded as one of the great classics of the spiritual life. The book is based on a series of sixteen visions she received in May 1373 when she was lying on what she thought at the time to be her deathbed. Julian of Norwich lived a solitary life of contemplation, dwelling in a room attached to the church. The room had three windows, one opened onto the church so she could receive communion, one enabled her to speak to her assistant and one allowed people to seek her spiritual counsel.

Today's service ends with the short choral piece "Now I Walk in Beauty," by American composer Gregg Smith (1931 – 2016). This Navajo ceremonial song aims to restore harmony with the earth. The song names directions, above and below, to remind us that we are all woven into the beauty of the earth. "Above" signifies the sky, heaven, stars, and the entire universe, while "below" nods toward soil, bones, Mother Earth, and our ancestors. This setting was composed in 1969 and was subsequently added as the finale to Smith's *Earth Requiem*, composed in 1994. A Chicago native, Gregg Smith set the standard for American professional choirs when he established the Gregg Smith Singers and was widely admired for his contributions to the field of contemporary choral composition through interpretation, commissioning, and recording.

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Events and Announcements

Court Watcher Startup Meeting | Today | 11:15 am, Board Room

We will officially form a Court Watcher team and make a plan to move forward as Court Watchers. All the information discussed at the meeting is available through Susan Holewinski.

Pentecost Offering | Now Through May 28

The Pentecost Offering is a special offering to support the building up of the Body of Christ. It helps guide young people in Christian formation from their earliest years to young adulthood. Scan the code to the right to see ways to give!



Worship in the Park | June 11 | 10:00 am

We'll be worshipping together at Broad Ripple Park instead of in the Sanctuary! This is an excellent opportunity to invite friends, family, and dogs to worship with us while surrounded by God's beauty. Don't forget to bring a chair!

Summer Fun: ReNew | Wednesdays in June | 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Summer Fun is back and this year we're teaming up with ReNew to promote environmentally-friendly fun! Signups are now open for 4-year-olds through 4th graders. Contact Nancy Fortenberry for more information!



Coffin House Tour | June 17 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Participate in a guided tour of the actual home Coffin Home in Fountain City! Join us for an optional lunch at the Old Richmond Inn at noon, following the tour. Scan the QR code to register and learn more. Please register by June 12th!



Northminster Reads: The Sweetness of Water | Jun. 18 | 5:30 pm

Mark your calendars for our next installment of Northminster Reads about the unlikely bond between two freedmen who are brothers and the Georgia farmer whose alliance will alter their lives, and his, forever. Zoom link will be available soon!



Northminster Camping Trip | Aug. 18-20

Mark your calendars now for Northminster's Camping Trip this August! All are welcome and more details including a registration link will be available soon. For more information, please contact Nancy Fortenberry.



One Church, One Book | Now Through Sep. 12

One Church, One Book is an all-church exploration of *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond. Folks are invited to start reading now and participate in several discussions between August 30th and September 12th.



Congo Family Donations

Join the Deacons to provide assistance for the Bilemo/Kangeta family of six adults and one toddler by providing a table and chairs, a vacuum cleaner, or even transportation. If you have questions, please contact Monica Brase.

Ministry

Brian Shivers
Pastor/Head of Staff

John Wright
Director of Music Ministries

Lori Schlabach
Financial Administrator

Carol McDonald
Parish Associate

Marko Petričić
Music Associate/Organist

Cheryl Plunkett
Office Administrator

Nancy Fortenberry
Director of Youth and
Family Ministries

Timothy Foster
Director of Communications

Morteza Semnani
Director of Operations

Melissa Hopkins
Interim Director of
Children's Ministries

Tony Dzwonar
Stephen Ministry Leader

Tim McElroy
Lead Custodian

Shiloh O'Rourke
Director of Preschool

Denise Harrington
Director of Senior Ministries

Michael de las Alas
Custodian

Donald R. Durrett
Associate Pastor Emeritus

*Northminster Presbyterian Church is a Matthew 25 congregation and a member of the
Covenant Network of Presbyterians*


Weekly Email Newsletters

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newsletter at northminster.church/newsletter


Prayer Lists

The prayer list is available 24/7 online! Visit northminster.church/prayer


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(317) 251-9489

 @northminsterindy

office@northminster-indy.org

 northminster-indy.org

9am - 3pm (M-Th) | Closed Friday



#SeekServeEmbrace

Bread for the World 2023 Offering of Letters
A Farm Bill that Builds Healthy, Equitable, and Sustainable Food Systems

May 21, 2023

Senator Mike Braun
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Todd Young
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Braun and Young,

The farm bill is our nation's most important national food system legislation. It is critical to the work of ending hunger at home and abroad. Indeed, the farm bill impacts each one of us.

As Congress works to renew our food and farm programs through the farm bill, I urge you to support legislation that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

Specifically, I urge you to:

- Increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables by increasing support for produce-specific Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP.) This provides resources on top of monthly SNAP benefits for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables, primarily at farmers' markets, for a limited number of households.
- Eliminate barriers to SNAP for marginalized populations, including ending the ban on former drug offenders, eliminating work requirements for college students, and permitting indigenous communities to administer SNAP and other federal nutrition programs on reservations.
- Keep food out of landfills by increasing support for post-harvest food recovery efforts and addressing the threat to food security posed by extreme weather.
- Support funding for international food aid programs such as Food for Peace.

As a person of faith, I am moved to help and advocate for people experiencing hunger and poverty – no matter where they live. This is why I urge you to support a farm bill that builds healthy, equitable and sustainable food systems.

Sincerely,

Name, City, and County