

Order of Worship Service

March 17, 2024

5th Sunday in Lent

PRELUDES

WELCOME

LENTEN RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

OUR RESPONSE - HYMN #809 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (OLD HUNDREDTH)

OPENING PRAYER

CHOIR This is My Father's World – Franklin Sheppard

HYMN #381 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR)

MISSIONS MOMENT InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (Robin Shugart)

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 1:26-31, 3:17-19
Reader: *The Word of the Lord.* Congregation response: *Thanks be to God.*

CHOIR All Good Gifts – David Schwoebel

PRAYER OF BLESSING

HYMN God, You Spin the Whirling Planets (HYFRYDOL)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kristen Kroeker

Leader: *Lord, in your mercy* Congregational Response: *Hear our prayer*

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:1-14
Reader: *The Word of the Lord.* Congregation response: *Thanks be to God.*

SOLO Hymn of Promise (In the Bulb there is a Flower) – Natalie Sleeth

MESSAGE Lessons from the Prairie Grass Leshia Verkerk

HYMN #379 For the Fruit of All Creation (AR HYD Y NOS)

BENEDICTION

As we end our time of worship, we extinguish a candle symbolizing our ongoing journey into the darkness of Good Friday.

POSTLUDE

Worship Leader	- Wilma Wiens
Minister of Pastoral & Spiritual Care	- Wilma Wiens
Minister of Music	- Margot Sim
Pianists	- Kimberly Lapatha, Philip Lapatha
Choir Director	- Philip Lapatha
Soloist	- Krista Labossiere

NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 24 (Palm Sunday): Leshia Verkerk will be speaking on “The King We Always Wanted” with scriptures Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 and Mark 11:1-11

LENTEN RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP – LENT 5 (from Psalm 51:1-12)

Leader: Come and bring your thanks and praise to God.

ALL: **God is faithful in love and mercy.**

Leader: Come as you are, hiding nothing from God.

ALL: **God is faithful in love and mercy.**

Leader: Come and know forgiveness and healing.

ALL: **God is faithful in love and mercy.**

Leader: Come to know truth in your inner being.

ALL: **God is faithful in love and mercy.**

Leader: Come and be renewed in your heart and spirit.

ALL: **God is faithful in love and mercy.**

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW (Thomas Ken)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below.

Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD (Maltbie Babcock/Mary Babcock Crawford)

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears

All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought

Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas – his hand the wonders wrought.

This is our Father's world, O let us not forget

That though the wrong is great and strong, God is the ruler yet.

He trusts us with his world, to keep it clean and fair

All earth and trees, all skies and seas, all creatures everywhere.

This is my Father's world, he shines in all that's fair,

In the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world, why should my heart be sad?

The Lord is King, let heaven ring! God reigns, let earth be glad!

COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME (Henry Alford)

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home,

All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.

God, our maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied.

Come to God's own temple, come, raise a song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield,

Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrows grown.

First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear,

Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his harvest home,

From his field shall in that day all offenses purge away,

Give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,

But the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home,
Gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, in your presence to abide.
Come, with all your angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

GENESIS 1:26-31; 3:17-19 (NIV)

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." ²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

ALL GOOD GIFTS (Matthias Claudis)

Chorus: All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love.

We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain. **Chorus**

He only is the Maker of all things near and far,
He paints the wayside flower, He lights the evening star.
The wind and waves obey Him, by Him the birds are fed,
Much more to us His children, He gives our daily bread. **Chorus**

We thank Thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer for all Thy love imparts,
And what Thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.

GOD, YOU SPIN THE WHIRLING PLANETS (Jane Parker Huber)

God, you spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain,
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine, wind and rain.
We, created in your image, would a true reflection be
Of your justice, grace and mercy, and the truth that makes us free.

You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship joined in one community.
When we blur your gracious image, focus us and make us whole,
Healed and strengthened as your people, we move onward to your goal.

God, your will is still creating, calling us to life made new,
Now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare to do.
Keep us clear of all distortion, fashion us with loving care,
Thus, new creatures in your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

JOHN 1:1-14 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

HYMN OF PROMISE (Natalie Sleeth)

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity.
In our doubt, there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
Unrevealed until its season, something yet unknown, which God alone can see.

FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION (Fred Pratt Green)

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.