

# *CPC Virtual Worship Service*

Crossnore Presbyterian Church

Sunday, June 28, 2020



sacredtrees.net

## **Welcome:**

We are worshipping together physically and virtually as One Body in Christ. The theme of this morning's service are the lessons in faith and life that we can learn from trees. Trees and forests are an integral part of our life here in the mountains but they are also a valuable part of our spiritual life as well. May God bless us as we share in worship and renew our lives for another week to worship and serve God by serving others in Christ's name.

**Announcements and Prayer Requests** are included as a separate attachment in the email.

## **\*Call to Worship:**

Through God, our Creator, we live in all things and all things live in us,  
**we rejoice in all life.**

We live by the sun and we move with the stars,  
**we rejoice in all life.**

We eat from the earth, we drink from the rain, we breathe in the air,  
**we rejoice in all life.**

We share with the creatures and we have strength through their gifts,  
**we rejoice in all life.**

We depend on the trees and the forests and we have knowledge through their secrets,  
**we rejoice in all life.**

We have the privilege of seeing and understanding through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We have the responsibility of caring and the joy of celebrating,  
**we rejoice in all life.**

Through Christ, we are full of the grace of the new creation and we are grateful.

**We rejoice in all life through the blessings of the Triune God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.**

## **\*Hymn of Praise: *Great is Thy Faithfulness***

Text: Thomas Chisholm; Music: William R. Runyan, 1923

Sing along: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTKlqmdfHSk>

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

## **Refrain:**

**Great is thy faithfulness!**

**Great is thy faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning new mercies I see:**

**all I have needed thy hand hath provided--**

**Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.  
[Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
[Refrain]

#### **Call to Confession:**

In our full lives, it is often hard to find even a few moments of quiet, but when we do, they are often an invitation to look inward, to the heart and soul. What we see there may be beautiful or ugly. In this time of confession, may we look within, and offer God the wholeness and truth of our lives.



#### **Unison Prayer of Confession:**

Holy God, gracious Creator, forgive us for not seeing the beauty that surrounds us. Forgive us when we look at screens rather than sunsets; forgive us when we read about a crisis and do not respond. Forgive us for thinking that we are the source of power and beauty and life. Turn us around and give us new eyes to see: hope in the clouds, life in a blade of grass and the roots of a tree, power in water and air, in fire and wind, and love in the face of our brothers and sisters. (moment of silent confession). This we pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord and

Savior. Amen.

#### **Assurance of Pardon:**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us proclaim the Good News:  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

#### **Response to God's Grace and Mercy: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*, verses one and two:**

Text: Henry Van Dyke; Music: from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

Sing along with the choirs and orchestra at Royal Albert Hall in London:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMY3ivdNzwE>

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;  
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,  
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.**

**Scripture Readings: Genesis 1:9-13, Psalm 1:1-3**

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

**Special Music: *Tree of Life* by Marty Haugen**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6g3W0zt77A>

Tree of life and awesome mystery, in your death we are reborn.  
Though you die in all of history, still you rise with every morn.

Seed that dies to rise in glory, may we see ourselves in you.  
If we learn to live your story, we may die to rise anew.

We remember truth once spoken, love passed down through act and word.  
Every person lost and broken wears the body of our Lord.

Adoramus te Christe. Adoramus Christe.

Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit, come enflame our hearts anew.  
We may all your joy inherit if we bear the cross with you.

Christ, you lead, and we shall follow, stumbling though our steps may be.  
One with you in joy and sorrow, we the river, you the sea.

**Sermon: "What the Trees Can Teach Us"** (included as an attachment)

**Rev. Kathy Campbell**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving affirming God's Creation:**

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;  
for the wide sky and the blessed sun,  
for the ocean and streams,  
for the towering hills and the whispering wind,  
for the trees and green grass.  
We thank you for our senses  
by which we hear the songs of birds,  
and see the splendor of fields of golden wheat,  
and taste autumn's fruit,  
rejoice in the feel of snow,  
and smell the breath of spring flowers.



Tree of Life by Patricia Lintner

Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty;  
and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing  
when even the common thorn bush  
is aflame with your glory.  
For each new dawn is filled with infinite possibilities  
for new beginnings and new discoveries.  
Life is constantly changing and renewing itself.  
In this new day of new beginnings with God,  
all things are possible.  
We are restored and renewed in a joyous awakening  
to the wonder that our lives are and, yet, can be. Amen.

~ written by Walter Rauschenbusch (1861-1918)

**\*Hymn of Meditation: *Together We Serve***

**Text and Music: Daniel Charles Damon, 1996**

Sing along with Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Hills, CA  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNeXFhZr9vE>

**Together we serve, united by love,  
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.  
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,  
extending God's love to the last and the least.**

**We seek to become a beacon of hope,  
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
until we see Christ in each person we meet.**

**We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,  
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.  
We offer a home to those who will come,  
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.**

**Together, by grace, we witness and work,  
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.  
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,  
remembering love is the strength of our song.**

**Prayers of the People:**

Today our prayers are going to be offered for members of our church family and loved ones. Please look at the prayer requests and take a moment to offer a prayer for each person listed. Please include those loved ones you want to hold up in prayer as well as our beautiful world that is in deep need of healing. You may want to close with the Lord's Prayer.

**Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:**

God's beautiful creation overflows with water, sunlight, and the rich, dark soil to grow our food. When we share the fruits of this earth, there is more than enough for all: there is a table of plenty set by a God who loves every one of us. At this table, all are fed and still there are gifts overflowing into the world God loves. Our giving supports this ministry that God is growing stronger each day. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.



**\*Doxology # 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow***

Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709; Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqBnzM1JBWM>

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.

**\*Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

God of grace, we hear your call to generous giving in the way you meet our needs each day, and in the peace you give which passes understanding. Having received so much, we offer all we have, our time, talents, and treasures for your kingdom. Bless these gifts for the work of your church in the stewardship of your creation. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn: *You Shall Go Out With Joy***

Text: Steffi Geiser Rubin, 1975; Music: Stuart Dauermann, 1975

Sing along with the choir at the Kerstconcert Bouwel 2016:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJeTbPoiNm0>

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap,  
will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;  
the trees of the field will clap their hands;  
the trees of the field will clap their hands  
while you go out with joy.

**\*Benediction: The Channel Islands Blessing**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TascsWZPj8U>



The Trees of Mepkin Abbey