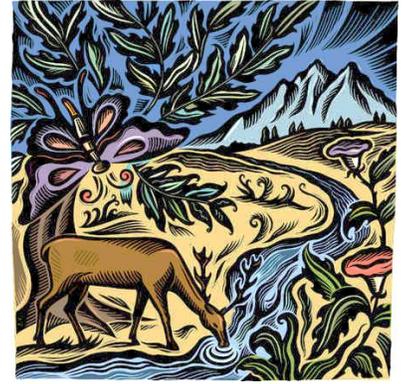


Virtual Worship Service
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
Sunday, October 18, 2020

Choral Call to Worship # 626 *As The Deer Pants for the Water*
Text and Music: Martin J. Nystrom, 1984

Sing along with: <https://youtu.be/UZv3jzOTE70>

**As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.**



***Call to Worship:**

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months, may the early setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is not the end, and life is eternal. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise # 32 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Text: Isaac Watts, 1715; Music: Gesangbuch der Herzogl, 1784

Sing along with Grace Community Church: <https://youtu.be/3pVdBw6shXY>

**I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!**

**There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.
and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, are present there.**

Call to Confession:

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. Still, we engage in confession, admitting to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts. Confident of God's love, let us make our confession before God and each other.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, we will be honest: this is really hard. It is really hard to wear masks, to avoid being out in public too often, to spend so much time watching screens. We're losing patience and we're losing hope and we're losing our grip on faith. We're caught between the selfishness of wanting to do whatever we want without regard for others, and wanting to be helpful and generous. Please help us. Help us to lean on you and each other when things get hard and when we get depressed. Remind us every day that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Encourage our hearts, and help us to be your people, to the best of our ability in these strange days (moment of silent confession). This we pray in the name of Jesus, who is with us always. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon:

Everyone who is in Christ is a new creation. Whatever was old is gone. New life has begun! Through Christ, our relationship with God has been restored. And our call is to restore our relationships with one another. Friends, believe the Good News that comes from God: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 437 *You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy*

Text: Traditional liturgical text; Music: Appalachian folk melody

Sing along with: <https://youtu.be/OHPKzjlgfOc>

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

First Lesson: Jeremiah 29:11-14

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Special Music: *To Everything Turn, Turn*

Sung by Judy Collins, 1966: <https://youtu.be/K3kKqfTjsj0>

Second Lesson: Ecclesiastes 3:1-14



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.

He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.

Sermon: "Autumn Lessons of Faith"

***Affirmation of Faith:**

**We believe in God the Creator,
who created and is creating everything:
the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;
each of us, unique, individual and beloved of God.**

**We believe in God the Christ,
who saved and is saving everything:
the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;
each of us; unique, individual and beloved of the Christ.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who guided and is guiding everything:
the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;
each of us, unique, individual and beloved of the Spirit.**

**We believe that this one God in three persons,
is present among us,
working directly in our lives
and the lives of all who are born into this world,
striving to bring us back into harmony
with all creation and with God,
through the gift of love and grace and eternal life.**

(adapted from a Thanksgiving Liturgy from the Mount Carmel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Portland, Oregon.)

Hymn of Meditation # 39 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1932; **Music:** William Marion Runyan, 1923

Sing along with <https://youtu.be/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 and ten thousand beside! (Refrain)**

Prayers of the People:

Eternal God, you have been our resting place through the ages.

Generations come and pass away, but you abide forever.

We praise you for your presence among us.

You bring us comfort amid our trials,

clarity where confusion persists,

peace in the midst of conflict,

and hope of eternal life.

Hear us now as we pray for your church and the needs of the world,
for you are the God of our lives.

We pray for the Church, the Body of Christ,
that, begun, maintained and promoted by the Holy Spirit,
it may be true, engaging, glad, and active, doing your will.

Let your church be always faithful, O God,
and ready to promote the cause of compassionate love and peace.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in our country and in the nations of the world.
We pray that everywhere upon this earth there may be justice and peace.

Lord, we pray for all people in their daily life and work—
for our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

We name before you individuals and families
experiencing personal hardship or facing an uncertain future,
those who are separated from loved ones,
those who grieve this today,
and those who are sick in hospital or ill at home.

Hear us Lord as we now lift up those people and those situations
you have placed upon our hearts...

Lord, in your love, hear all our prayers—both the spoken and unspoken.
May our prayers further your purposes for us all,
and bring us to that place where we may experience joy
in all circumstances.

We pray in the name of Jesus who taught his disciples to pray,
Our Father...

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

God calls us to share our blessings with others in ways that are life giving and healing. Let us receive this morning's offering with the joy and gratitude of those who have been so richly blessed.

***Doxology # 606**

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

**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.**

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:



Lord, You have given us time and the seasons. You give us the wonder and marvel of summer with the warmth and fun of faith. You give us the color and change of autumn and cause us to see the need for change. You give us the cold and snow of winter with time for us to sit and think. You give us the new life and growth of springtime with the reminder of new life in Christ. Creator God, Lord of the Universe, accept our gifts and our lives and use them to touch the lives of those who are in need spiritually, physically, emotionally. Amen

Closing Hymn # 37 *Let All Things Now Living

Text: Katherine K. Davis; Music: Welsh folk melody

Sing along with St. German's Parish, Cardiff: <https://youtu.be/6V3zMCfa2II>

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.**

**God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.**

**By law God enforces the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.**

**We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!**

***Charge and Benediction:**

Now for the harvest! All is rich and full;
The swelling grape is ripe upon the vine,
So may his blessing sanctify your fall,
And old love be remembered in new wine.
Now may your ears be open to his call,
You stand on holy ground, look up and see:
His love burns red and gold in every tree.

~ Malcolm Guite

Postlude: Antonio Vivaldi - Four Seasons, Budapest Strings, Bela Banfalvi, Conductor

Listen at: <https://youtu.be/GRxofEmo3HA>



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