



*Virtual Worship Service
for the Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday of the Season of Pentecost
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
Sunday, June 13, 2021*

Welcome and Announcements:
(PDF attachment included)

Choral Call to Worship # 628 *Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord*
<https://youtu.be/SWuTvpiVEmY> - Anabaptist Community Choir

JE LOUERAI L'ETERNAL

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways,
and glorify your name.
Praise, I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways,
and glorify your name.
Love, I will love you Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways,
and glorify your name.
Serve, I will serve you Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Call to Worship:

Jesus said the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed; it starts out as a small thing, but it grows and grows until it gives a home to the birds of the air.

Can we believe a new day is coming? As surely as the sun rises over the horizon God is creating a new world.

Jesus said the Kingdom of God is like that someone who casts seed on the ground, and then sleeps and wakes, day after day, while the earth produces the fruit from the seed that was cast.

We do not know how God works out the fullness of redemption. But we know we are partners in that work.

Praise the name of the Lord who still cares for the world!

Praise the name of the Lord who leads with power and grace.

Hymn of Praise # 625 O Lord My God

HOW GREAT THOU ART

<https://youtu.be/dnvg00tupul> - Carrie Underwood, featuring Vince Gill

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain:

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: [Refrain]

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin: [Refrain]

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" [Refrain]

Call to Confession:

God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession, before God and each other.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Beloved God, it is often hard for us to see anything special in something so small as a seed. We look at certain people we encounter in our lives, and wonder, "How can we love them?" But you call us, again and again, to shower love upon the world – on the impressive flowers and on the tiny seeds. Help us to see each other as you see us – needing your grace poured out, and through your grace, being worthy of your love. Help us to grow into sheltering plants, able not only to rise toward your outpouring of grace and love, but to point others to your life-giving light (moment of silent confession). Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God!

Alleluia! Amen.

Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 437 *You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy* WAYFARING STRANGER
You are the Lord, Giver of mercy; You are the Christ, Giver of mercy; You are the Lord, Giver of mercy.

First Lesson: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Special Music: *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

HYMN OF PROMISE

<https://youtu.be/XgEQSu2bpc4> - Nancy Allen

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.**

Second Lesson: Mark 4:26-34

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Sermon: "Growing Season" (PDF attachment included)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

***Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles Creed:**

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of Meditation # 694 *Great God of Every Blessing*

AURELLA

<https://youtu.be/9jmQZATK0x4> - Grosse Pointe Memorial Church (Michigan) Virtual Choir

Great God of every blessing,
of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness,
the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you?
Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.

Your Word is our salvation,
the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending
your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body;
each member has a part:
sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.

Your Spirit is our teacher,
the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people
into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy,
for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.

Prayers of the People:

Heavenly Father, even as you planted the majestic cedar tree and made it tall, so you also have brought us forth to bear fruit, in every age---even in old age.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, help us look at you and others with the spiritual eyes of faith, knowing that we are your new creation. Even as you died and rose for us, urge us to live and care for others.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

Your kingdom, Lord God, is a seed-planting kingdom. Help the kernel of life in every shell of every single body gathered here for worship, split and sprout like seed in good soil, always looking forward to your day of harvest.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

Holy Spirit, nations and leaders rise and fall like trees in a storm. In this age give us the wisdom to depend upon God's holy promises and commands, as our primary guides in life.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

Help us minister to those who need their health restored, their hope invigorated, their love rekindled. Bring us a joy greater than happiness, a love beyond imagination, and may our final journey bring us to your throne of grace. Hear us as we pray for one another...

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

The love of God has won. The new life has begun in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught his disciples to pray:
Our Father who art in heaven...Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

God has offered us such abundance. We are so very blessed. May we share our gratitude in the offerings we place before God today knowing that God can take whatever we have to offer and multiply our gifts. Let us receive this morning's offering.

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Faithful God, let these gifts we present to you today become seeds of your new creation: planted in the needs of the world you love; watered by tears and hope; fed and strengthened by the glow of Christ's resurrection; gathered home with joy and singing. Amen.

Closing Hymn # 80 *You Shall Go Out with Joy

TREES OF THE FIELD

<https://youtu.be/cjL27TISwYU> - Bill & Gloria Gaither

**You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you
and all of 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 of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.**

***Charge and Benediction:**

It takes little faith to see the sacred in the extraordinary.

To have faith the sacred is in the ordinary, though,
takes courage to believe the mundane can be enough;
that grace can emerge
even through the dull,
the slightly disappointing,
the not quite right,
not quite as we intended,
not really what we hoped;
the clumsy,
the awkward,
and the imperfect.

Let your act of faith be to let what you do be enough.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you now and forever. Amen.