

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Thunder Bay**  
**July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

\*indicates please stand if you are able

**Bolded** passages are to be spoken in unison by the congregation  
Guest Worship Leader: Rev. Bert Vancook

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**We Prepare for Worship**

**Prelude**

**Lighting of Christ Candle**

**Words of Welcome**

**We Worship God**

**Call to Worship** (from Psalm 65)

Oh God, visit the earth. Ask her to join the dance.

**Deck her out in spring showers**

Fill the God-river with living water.

**Paint the wheat fields golden.**

Creation was made for this!

**Drench the plowed fields, soak the dirt clods with rainfall.**

**Bring her to blossom and fruit.**

Snow-crown the peaks with splendour.

**Scatter rose petals down your paths, set the hills to dancing.**

Dress the canyon walls with live sheep.

**Drape flax across the valleys.**

Let them shout, and shout, and shout

**Let them sing to your name, O God.**

**\*Hymn**

*For the beauty of the earth*

**434**

1. For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

2. For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

3. For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

4. For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

5. For each perfect gift of thine,  
to the earth so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven.  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

Words: public domain

## Opening Prayer

### Prayer of Confession

**Faithful God, You have planted seeds of faith in us, but we confess we have not tended those seeds well in ourselves or in others. We fail to keep studying your Word, satisfied instead with what we think it means. We consider that we already know enough, and so we refuse to pursue deeper encounters with you. Forgive us, God, when we think you have nothing more to offer us. Pour out your mercy on us and on your world, through Jesus we pray.**

### Assurance of Pardon

#### We Listen for God's Word

#### \*Hymn

*Bring many names*

**310**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bring many names, beautiful and good:<br/>celebrate in parable and story,<br/>holiness in glory, living, loving God:<br/>hail and hosanna, bring many names!</li> <li>3. Warm father God, hugging every child,<br/>feeling all the strains of human living,<br/>caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:<br/>hail and hosanna, warm father God!</li> <li>5. Young, growing God, eager, on the move,<br/>saying no to falsehood and unkindness,<br/>crying out for justice, giving all you have:<br/>hail and hosanna, young, growing God!</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Strong mother God, working night and day,<br/>planning all the wonders of creation,<br/>setting each equation, genius at play:<br/>hail and hosanna, strong mother God!</li> <li>4. Old, aching God, grey with endless care,<br/>calmly piercing evil's new disguises,<br/>glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:<br/>hail and hosanna, old, aching God!</li> <li>6. Great, living God, never fully known,<br/>joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,<br/>closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:<br/>hail and hosanna, great, living God!</li> </ol> |
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"Bring Many Names Beautiful And Good (Westchase)," words by Brain A. Wren  
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## Children's Time

### Sharing a Sign of Peace

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

### Community Life Announcements

### Prayer for Understanding

## Scripture Readings

### ❖ Matthew 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!'

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The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Message

### We Respond to God's Word

#### \*Hymn

*Sing praise to God on mountain tops*

**322**

1. Sing praise to God on mountain tops  
and in earth's lowest places,  
from blue lagoon to polar waste,  
from ocean to oasis.  
No random rock produced this world  
but God's own will and wonder.  
thus hills rejoice and valleys sing  
and clouds concur with thunder.
2. Sing praise to God where grasses grow  
and flowers display their beauty,  
where nature weaves her myriad web  
through love as much as duty.  
The seasons in their cycle speak  
of earth's complete provision.  
Let nothing mock inherent good  
or treat it with derision.
3. Sing praise to God where fishes swim  
and birds fly in formation,  
where animals of every kind  
diversify creation.  
All life that finds its home on earth  
is meant to be respected;  
let nothing threaten, for base ends,  
what God through grace perfected.
4. Sing praise to God where humankind  
its majesty embraces,  
where different races, creeds and tongues  
distinguish different faces.  
God's image in each child of earth  
shall never pale or perish;  
so treat with love each human soul  
and thus God's goodness cherish.

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## Invitation to the offering

### Doxology

*All creatures of our God and King (v6)*

**433**

Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:  
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Words: based on Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Sun"

## Offering Prayer

God of growing seeds and souls, we offer our gifts in thanksgiving for your kindness to us. Use them to add to the abundance of your love at work in the world. Inspire faith in any souls they touch. We ask in Jesus' name

## Prayers of the People

### Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. 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

### We are Sent out as God's People

#### \*Hymn

*Sent forth by your blessing*

775

1. Sent forth by your blessing, our true faith confessing,  
your people, O God, from your table take leave.  
The supper is ended: oh now be extended  
the fruits of your service in all who believe.  
The seed of your teaching, our hungry souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for all humankind.  
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom, your purpose to find.
2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living  
the task of our everyday life we will face,  
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing as neighbours all those of each race.  
One feast that has fed us, one light that has led us,  
unite us as one in your life that we share.  
Then may all the living, with praise and thanksgiving,  
give honour to Christ and his name that we bear.

"Sent forth by your blessing," words by Omer Westendorf  
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## Benediction

## Postlude

