

ST. JOHN'S WORSHIP

Sunday, February 7, 2021
St. John's Baptist Church | Charlotte, NC
Epiphany

Introduction

"The Creation," by James Weldon Johnson

Video created by the Primitive Christian Church of New York City
Used with permission

Greeting and Prayer of Submission

Rev. Nate Dove

Call to Worship with *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

J. Kevin Gray

I enjoyed the feast of a hundred hills, all lying in the quietude of the infinite, who had formed them a feature of his own power. For a moment I retreated to the back of the mountain, that I might enjoy the sweets solitude, that I might hold converse for a moment with the great sentiment of power that impressed itself on the surrounding scene. With the multitude of hills lying all around me, I could not but lift my hat as being in the presence of God.

-Walter Scott

Hymn

Creative God, You Spread the Earth

KINGFOLD

Creative God, you spread the earth with life in many forms:
the deer and elk and columbine, the bee in humming swarms.
Forgive us for each flow'r and bird now vanished by our hand.
Teach us to treat with loving care the creatures of the land.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures-A Godly Play Story

Genesis 1:1-31

Rev. Allison Benfield

Hymn

Creative God, You Spread the Earth

KINGFOLD

O playful God, you fill the earth with lavender and blue.
You paint the bird with indigo, with red or tawny hue.
Forgive us when we grieve your heart, destroying what you do,
and teach us simpler, gentle ways to live on earth with you.

The Church at Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Eric McCombs

Prayer of a Native American from the Chalice Hymnal, p. 698

Oh, Great Spirit whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me. I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people. Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. I seek strength, not to be superior to my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy - myself. Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit will come to you without shame. Lord, we pause to reflect on what humanity is capable of doing to the beauty you created for us.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Song

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.

Refrain: Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,

[Refrain]

For yourself, best gift divine, to the world so freely given, agent of God's grand design: peace on earth and joy in heaven.

[Refrain]

Message

How Then Shall We Live?

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Hymn

The Earth Is the Lord's

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

DENIO

Too often, O God, we abuse your good earth. We fail to remember its beauty and worth. We take from creation much more than we need, we threaten your world through indifference and greed.

May we be good stewards of all that you give, protecting creation wherever we live. May we be a church that renews and restores and lovingly cares for this earth that is yours.

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

Postlude

How Firm a Foundation

arr. Anna Laura Page

J. Noel Lance