



## **Caring for Creation**

### **Order of Service**

**March 8, 2009**

**Lambuth Inn**

**Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center**

The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof.  
*And we are of the earth, a dimension of its fullness.*  
He has founded it upon the seas, and established  
it upon the rivers.

*Upon pristine waters that flow in harmony with soil,  
plants and creatures.*

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the  
firmament proclaims his handiwork.

*In beauty and purpose, they praise their maker.*  
Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night  
declares knowledge.

*The rhythms of light and darkness proclaim the  
Truth that was imprinted in them at their making.*

Their voice goes out through all the earth, their  
words to the end of the world.

*May we as faithfully reflect out Maker and the  
purposes for which we were created.*

*Excerpts from and responses to,  
Psalms 19 and 24*

Prelude: Bright New Day Lani Smith  
Pat Stone

Call to worship:  
Parable of the Good Samaritan  
in word and drama

Congregational Response:

Leader: Tell me. If you are to be good neighbors,  
to whom will you show mercy?

**Congregation: We humans, the soil and all life  
forms are linked in a network of  
interdependency. We, then, are called  
to be merciful to the whole.**

Leader: You have answered well; go and do  
likewise.

**Congregation: Perhaps, like the Samaritan, we  
will be choosing the high road, the way  
of life, rather than the way of death.**

**Prayer of Reconciliation:**

**Too often, we are the thieves who rob, beat  
and leave our Earth half-dead. Lord, have  
mercy on us. Too often, we are the priests  
who turn our indifferent backs to Earth's  
gaping wounds. Lord, have mercy on us.  
Too often, we are the Levites who see the  
wounds we have inflicted upon Earth and feel  
a sense of shame, but are too consumed by our  
own self-interests to stop our destruction and  
offer aid. Lord, have mercy on us. May we strive  
to be "Good Samaritans" who get off our donkeys,  
bind up Earth's wounds, and commit our whole  
selves to caring for creation, whatever the cost. Amen.**

Congregational Reading: "We Are Takers"

**Altar Left:**

**You are the giver of all good things,  
Rain and sun, day and night, justice and  
righteousness,  
Bread to the eater and seed to the sower,  
Peace to the old, energy to the young,  
Joy to the babes.  
We are takers, who take from you,  
Day by day, daily bread,  
Taking all we need as you supply,  
Taking in gratitude and wonder and joy.**

**Altar Right:**

**And then taking more,  
Taking more than we need,  
Taking more than you give us,  
Taking from our sisters and brothers,  
Taking from the poor and weak,  
Taking because we are frightened,  
and so greedy,  
Taking because we are anxious,  
and so fearful,  
Taking because we are driven,  
and so uncaring.**

**ALL:**

**Give us peace beyond our fear, and so end  
our greed.  
Give us well-being beyond our anxiety,  
and so end our fear.  
Give us abundance beyond our drivenness,  
And so end our uncaring. Turn our taking into  
giving, since we are in your giving image:  
Make us giving like you, giving gladly, giving  
in abundance, giving in joy, giving as He gave  
Himself up for us all, Giving. AMEN  
Walter Brueggemann**

Scripture Readings: Old Testament Lesson  
Isaiah 24:4-5  
Isaiah 58:6-11

Anthem: Celtic Laud

Craig Courtney

*For fruit of the vine, for harvest of wheat,  
for bread and for wine, the gift of your feast,  
the cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise,  
O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.  
For dove in the sky, for wind in the trees,  
for coal and fire, Your spirit in me,  
The cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise,  
O Lord of my living, love and my praise.  
For springtime's green earth, for morning's  
first light, for every new birth, for grace and  
for life. The cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise,  
O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.*

Affirmation of Faith: Front of Order of Service

Lectionary Reading:

Romans 4:13-25

Sermon "Hoping Against Hope"

Dr. Katy Hinman

Liturgical Dance: We Belong to the Earth  
Miriam's Daughters

Offering of Commitment

Hymn: God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens p. 150

Benediction: "Love All God's Creation"

"Love all God's creation, the whole and every grain of sand in it. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love." Amen

We appreciate all who assisted in our worship today:

Liturgist: John Hill

Preacher: Dr. Katy Hinman

Choral ensemble: First United Methodist Church  
Waynesville, NC  
David Traynham, Director

Liturgical Dancers: Miriam's Daughters  
First United Methodist Church  
Waynesville, NC  
Dance Coordinator: Pat Stone

Accompanist: Brenda Traynham

Worship Committee: Betsy Hardin, Jane Young, Loy Lilley

**Acknowledgement of Sources:**

Call to Worship: Ideas taken from Introductory Readings,  
The Green Bible NRSV

Congregational Reading: Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth  
Walter Brueggemann "We Are Takers," p. 33

Benediction: The Brothers Karamazov, Fyodor Dostoyevsky,  
pp. 382-383.