

Order of Worship
Sunday, April 6, 2008
Caring For Creation

Prelude

Call To Worship:

Leader: In this year of 2008—

Voice 1: When goods are more cherished than the good of the earth,

Voice 2: When the wealth of a few takes grain from the poor,

Voice 3: When pollution and garbage choke rivers and sky,

Leader: What does our God require of us?

Voice 1: What would it mean to do justice today?

Voice 2: To love and show mercy wherever we are?

Voice 3: To walk humbly with God when humility's reviled?

Leader: Through scripture, reason, and the sensitive heart, the word of God comes:

Voice 1: Live with less; release to others what is theirs; be more grateful;

Voice 2: Listen, also, to cries of Earth, and include her in your mercy's embrace.

Voice 3: See your arrogance and repent; claim and celebrate your role as only one part of a magnificent, interdependent whole.

All: We think we want the timbers removed from our eyes. We sort of want to give freely--as do the flowers, birds and trees--of the essence of who we were meant to be. But growing is painful. And take the hands we now shyly offer, and guide us onto the path of submission to your Love. Amen.

Hymn All Things Bright And Beautiful 147

Open Prayer Michael Beadle

Scripture Readings: Old Testament Lesson Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 65:9-13
New Testament Lesson Matthew 6:25-33

Prayer of Confession:

Altar Left

Altar Right

If there were no seeds there would be no plants,

If there were no plants, the very air would gasp.

If the atmosphere sickened, where would be breath?

If there were no breath, life as we know it would cease.

All: We thank you, Creator, for the mighty seed.

If there were no streams, there would be no rivers,
If there were no rivers, there would be no seas,
Without rivers and seas, the earth would be barren.
If the earth were barren, it would mirror the face of Death.

All: We praise you, O God, for the rushing stream.

If there were no bees, the flowers would weep.
If the flowers were stricken, what of the butterfly's fate?
If the all butterflies died, beauty would suffer.
If beauty were diminished, what of the songs of the soul?

All: We lift our voices in gratitude.
and pray that we will be as essential
to the health of the whole as the bee,
the stream and the seed. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Anthem: "Look at the World" John Rutter
(ensemble from First United Methodist choir Waynesville, NC)

Sermon: "Consider the Birds of the Air and the Lilies of the Field"

OUR SOCIAL CREED (This new creed is being proposed to General Conference later this month.)

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ,
calls us by grace
*to be renewed in the image of our Creator,
that we may be one
in divine love for the world.*

Today is the day
God cares for the integrity of creation, wills the healing and wholeness of all life,
weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.
And so shall we.

Today is the day God embraces all hues of humanity,
delights in diversity and difference, favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.
And so shall we.

Today is the day God cries with the masses of starving people,
despises growing disparity between rich and poor, demands justice for workers in the
marketplace.

And so shall we.

Today is the day God deplores violence in our homes and streets,
rebukes the world's warring madness, humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.

And so shall we.

Today is the day God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.

And so shall we.

*Today is the day
God brings good news to the poor,
proclaims release to the captives,
gives sight to the blind, and
sets the oppressed free.
And so shall we.*

Offering

Liturgical Dance

Hymn: The Footprints Where Your People Tread

The footprints where your people tread have
marked and marred the earth. The global
warming that we dread has shadowed us from birth.

As climates change and nature shifts, we play a godless
game. We reap rewards from what we sow, yet try to
shift the blame.

O gracious God, we pray for help that we might learn
to live in harmony with in this world with all you gave
and give.

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Benediction:

Worship Leadership:

Liturgist: The Reverend Dr. Katy Hinman

Call to worship: Betsy Hardin

Opening prayer: Michael Beadle

Morning Preacher: Bishop Kenneth Carder

Currently on Duke University Divinity School staff

Liturgical Dancers First United Methodist Church Dancers
Waynesville, NC

Pat Stone, accompanist and Dance coordinator

We appreciate all who assisted in our worship today.

Worship Committee: Betsy Hardin, Jane Young and Loy
Lilley