

New Covenant Community Church
October 25, 2020

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us worship God and rejoice, for God is calling us today.

People: As we hear God's call, let us bring the gift of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Leader: God uses our varied gifts, so that all people may be embraced with God's love.

People: May we share the blessings which God has given us to benefit others.

Leader: Come, let us worship and celebrate God's love for us.

People: Let us show our faithfulness in our words and actions as we are surrounded by the beauty of the earth.

HYMN

For The Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies.
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, This, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder 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 hymn of grateful praise.

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 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.
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, This, our hymn of grateful praise.

For Thy church, that evermore Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore Her pure sacrifice of love.
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, This, our hymn of grateful praise.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God,

although You equip us for Your work,

we complain that we do not have

enough time,

enough talent,

enough resources,

or enough energy

to accomplish the work that You have called us to do.

We so quickly worry about what we *don't* have

that we neglect to look at all the gifts and talents we can share.

O Lord, forgive us of our sinful ways that diminish Your kingdom.

Inspire us to invest in Your life-changing work,

and empower us to use the multitude of gifts we have received to serve You in word

and deed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Silent)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (adapted from Psalm 103:11-12)

Leader: As the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward those whose honor God.

People: **As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us.**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: **Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 65:17-25

- ¹⁷ For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
- ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.
- ¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.
- ²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
- ²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- ²² They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
- ²³ They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD — and their descendants as well.
- ²⁴ Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.
- ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent — its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

MEDITATION

“Stewardship of Life”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

BENEDICTION