

Prepare *(a video)*

“100% Natural ... lessons from God’s creation”

<https://youtu.be/n2CG-zOfP0s>

In the Beginning...

“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.”
(Genesis 1: 1-2)

Did you hear that? A “wind from God!” From day one, the Holy Spirit has blown through everything.

Remember that, children of Pentecost and Promise! We are connected to Creation by the very breath of God who, day by day in the beginning, looked upon it all and said, “*it is good.*” ... Allow wonder and awe to open you to God’s presence...

Behold what God has made

refrain: D G A D
Be - hold what God has made, and then pro -

G A D A
claimed as good; for the earth is a won - der we shall

Bm F#m G A D fine
not tear a - sun - der. Re - joice, be glad, and sing.

D A Bm
1. From the ground that sur - rounds cast an eye to the
2. From one day to the next comes a sound, full and
3. In the sky is the sun, which brings light to the

F#m G A D
sky, let your heart leap with - in as you start won - d'ring
free, to the One who breath'd life and caus'd all things to
world, and the clouds all ar - rayed like a blan - ket un -

A D A Bm F#m
why the land and the sea and the crea - tures that crawl have a
be. And this song with - out words goes through - out all the earth speak - ing
furled. And be - neath and up - on all this splen - dor are we, who, like

G A G A
rhyme and a rhy - thm that flows through them all.
wis - dom and glo - ry and val - ue and worth.
ev - 'ry - thing else were cre - a - ted by Thee.

derived from Genesis 1 and Psalm 19
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Responsive Prayer

Please rise, and let us pray together Psalm 8, #812 in your hymnal, as well as projected on the screen. The words in bold are yours to pray aloud. It begins with your voices joined as one.

Congregation:

***O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.***

One:

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

Congregation:

**Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.**

One:

You have given them dominion
over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,

Congregation:

**all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

All:

***O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!***

One: AMEN!

Hymnal #819, Psalm 8:1, 3-9
from the New Revised Standard Version
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National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.
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First Fruits

Please remain standing as we raise a “hymn of grateful praise” to God “For the beauty of the earth,” as well as for what we have received from the One who created it all. I invite you to bring your tithe or other offering forward as you sing, actively responding to God’s goodness. Consider it “first fruit.”

For those with green thumbs, our gardens have begun to offer their bounty, with early crops like asparagus and strawberries, and other vegetables on their way. Slowly, but surely, more will come, barring drought or flood. Like a garden, we also share our first fruit, giving as we have received.

As you journey from your seat to the front, then back, feel free to also share a hug, a handshake, or a warming smile with those around you as you sing. Lift your voice and be grateful.

Hymn - “For the beauty of the earth” - #89

A time for receiving

Ginger & Ron Berninger
introduced by Jean & Dave Sack

then:

Ginger & Ron, we are blessed that God has led you to us. We look forward to how the Spirit will guide you to live and serve among us in the days to come. We pray we will be faithful in our caring support of you, and challenge you to a deeper adventure of faith. With this in mind, let me ask:

Knowing that Christians never fully arrive, but are always in the process of becoming, do you now reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

“I do.”

Believing that Christianity is experienced in a faith community that supports and strengthens us in time of weakness and doubt, and that learns from us as we learn from it, do you promise to live and share with us in the bonds of Christian fellowship?

“I do.”

Recognizing that the church is organized to fulfill its mission, will you worship, serve, and share in the program of the Long Green Valley Church by your prayers, regular attendance, loyal service and outreach, and faithful stewardship?

“I do.”

Becoming a member of this congregation, will you make every effort to witness to the Christian gospel and keep alive the concerns of the Church of the Brethren where you live and work?

“I do.”

to the Congregation:

Would you rise and join me in receiving Ron and Ginger as members of this congregation? ... In unison:

We welcome you with joy and affection into this household of faith. We pledge to you our help, our prayers, our concern, that we may all increase in the knowledge and love of God. We trust God for strength to follow with you in Christ's way, keeping together the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Amen.

(“right hand of fellowship” / hugs)

questions and congregation affirmation from

For all who Minister:

A Worship Manual for the Church of the Brethren,

©1993, Brethren Press, 143-4.

Sharing a joy, a concern, a word of testimony or praise

Hymn - “Holy, holy, holy” - #75

Pastoral Prayer

(written/prayed by Meghan Knight)

My Poem about / Prayer to God

God,

_____, _____
(2 words that describe God)

_____, _____, _____
(3 “-ing” words that God does, for example: “loving”)

(what I want to say to God today)

_____.
(a name for God)

by _____
(my name – optional)

Poems about/Prayers to God

In your bulletin is an insert entitled, “My Poem about / Prayer to God.” In the next few minutes, I invite you to write a simple prayer, using the format of this insert: (next ppt slide). “God,” it begins, then suggests you come up with two words that describe this One whom you have just named. In the first verse of our first hymn today we sang to God, who is “immortal” and “invisible,” but also “blessed” and “glorious.” Any of those words would fit here. What other words might you come up with?

The next part of your poetic prayer asks for three words that speak of what God does, suggesting that these words end with the letters “ing.” For instance, God loves us, therefore we say he is “lov-ing.” Likewise, the Lord cares for us, so he is “car-ing.” What other “ing” words come to mind, which speak to you of what God does?

After this comes something you want to say to God today. Perhaps it’s gratitude – for something specific or life in general. Maybe you have a request of the Lord to put here. Or there might be something else you want to say. Write it down... Finally, think of one of the many names of God in the Bible: Jehovah, God most high, Lord of all, Savior, Friend, the Great I AM, Holy One, etc. End your poetic prayer to God with this name.

When you are done, you may either keep and take your prayer with you, or go to one of the windows in our sanctuary and tape it to a pane – in this time before the sermon or after the service. Feel free to put down your

name, or remain anonymous. Make sure you take time later to read the prayers of others on the windows. May the light of Christ shine through them.

Let’s make some quiet time now to compose our prayers.
(forward to next ppt slide)

music in background:
“St Patrick's Breastplate”
performed by the Woodmont Consort
of the Woodmont Christian Church - Disciples of Christ
Nashville, TN
(<https://youtu.be/wksR-kwCWUo>)
in mp3, not video, form
3 minutes, 23 seconds long

Pausing to laugh (and think)

Today is the Sunday after Pentecost which, in the liturgical calendar of the church, is “Trinity Sunday.” Last week, we celebrated the blessing of the Holy Spirit as God’s presence and power among us. Of course, we also speak of God as our “Father” or our “Creator,” the One in and through whom all things came into existence, the Great “I am who I am.” We also speak of Jesus, our Christ, as God incarnate, the One sent to walk in our sandals, to show the way of life, as well as to be the Way, the Truth and the Life.

So, then, there is (in the language of the tradition we have received), God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – God in three persons, a blessed “Trinity.” A problem arises, however, when we try to explain what this means... I invite you to enjoy a humorous video that stumbles through providing the answer to the question, “what is the Trinity?”

The characters are two Irish brothers, Donnell and Connell, and Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Fifteen hundred years ago, he was a missionary to this windswept isle west of England, sharing Christ – the beginning of the Celtic movement in Christianity. Legend credits Saint Patrick with teaching the Irish about the doctrine of the Holy Trinity by showing people the shamrock, using its 3 leaves to explain Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Also, the absence of snakes in Ireland gave rise to the legend that they had all been banished by Saint Patrick.

So, now, here is “St Patrick’s Bad Analogies.” As you watch, please sign the attendance pad and pass it on.

<https://youtu.be/KQLfgaUoQCw>

Gospel Co-Mission

Our Gospel lesson for today is often called “The Great Commission,” which makes it sound very big and, possibly, out of the league of most of us mere mortals. Or the title may induce us to think “long ago and far away.” To help us bring it down to earth, let’s hear it read by one of our members who can’t make it church, residing as she does in a nursing home. As we continue the work of Jesus, co-“mission”-aries with him, challenged as we are by this calling at the end of Matthew’s gospel, so she is in co-mission with us, trying to live and share the good news right where she is. Let’s listen to our sister speak the words of Jesus.

Video - Matthew 28:16-20
read by Betty Chenoweth

today’s message:

“One for the money, two for the...”

the sermon will end with everyone reading the following prayer,
projected on the powerpoint.

(note: this is your cue, Eva, to head to the organ)

(ppt slide 1):
excerpt from the prayer:

The Breastplate of St. Patrick

Pray in unison

(slide 2): Christ be with me
Christ before me
Christ behind me
Christ in me

(slide 3): Christ beneath me
Christ above me
Christ on my right
Christ on my left

(slide 4): Christ where I lie
Christ where I sit
Christ where I arise

(slide 5): Christ in the heart
of every man
who thinks of me

(slide 6): Christ in the mouth
of every man
who speaks of me

(slide 7): Christ in every eye
that sees me
Christ in every ear
that hears me

(slide 8): Salvation is of the Lord

Benediction

Finally, brothers and sisters,
keep rejoicing
and repair whatever is broken.
Encourage each other,
think as one,
and live at peace;
and God,
the Author of love and peace,
will remain with you.

2 Corinthians 13:11
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