



First Reformed Church, Schenectady
In-person worship requires masks, distance,
and no singing.

Order of Worship August 30, 2020
Preacher: Bill Levering
Special Music: Mary Bailey
Prelude - Ada Yao

Greeting and Call to Worship

***Hymn** The Earth Is Yours by Michael Gungor

Your voice it thunders, The oaks start twisting
The forest sounds with cedars breaking
The waters see You and start their writhing
From the depths a song is rising. Now it's rising from the ground

Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord the earth is yours and singing
Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord The earth is yours. The earth is Yours

Your voice it thunders The ground is shaking
The mighty mountains now are trembling
Creation sees you And starts composing The fields and trees they start rejoicing.
Now it's rising from the ground (Chorus)

***Our Need for God (unison)**

**O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all things seen and unseen:
where we have destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us.
Where we have taken majesty for granted, have mercy upon us.
When we have forgotten to care for the creatures of this earth,**

give us new resolve. Renew us in the waters of baptism,
refresh us with the winds of your spirit,
and sustain us with the bread of life, we pray. Amen.

***God's Forgiving Love**

***Response of Praise (hummed)**

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 you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

***Affirmation of Faith (FRC Creation Care Resolution)**

Scripture reveals that God, through Word and Spirit, creates, sustains, loves, and owns the world. We commit to make care of creation a central priority in our congregation, for the blessing of the world, the strengthening of our lives, the transformation of our communities, and the glory of God.

Special Music

First Reading Genesis 2:4b-22

Children's Message

Second Reading John 3:1-16

Sermon "God So Loved the Cosmos"

Musical Offering

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Distribution of the Elements

Prayers of the People and 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. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn - God Be With You -540

God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Unseen wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Benediction

Go out into the world in peace. Give no person evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak. **Honor all people.**
May the blessings of God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
be with you now and always.

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*Our ideal is a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the hopeful spirit, and
the social vision which ever seeks to express, in all walks of life, the mind of
Jesus.*



“Trees are sanctuaries. Whoever knows how to speak to them, whoever knows how to listen to them, can learn the truth. They do not preach learning and precepts, they preach, undeterred by particulars, the ancient law of life.” - Herman Hesse

“The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.”— John Muir

“What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another.”— Chris Maser, *Forest Primeval: The Natural History of an Ancient Forest*

“The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing that stands in the way. Some see nature all ridicule and deformity... and some scarce see nature at all. But to the eyes of the man of imagination, nature is imagination itself.”— William Blake

“A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.”— Franklin D. Roosevelt

“Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky.”— Khalil Gibran, *Sand and Foam*

“Trees're always a relief, after people.”— David Mitchell, *Black Swan Green*

“Plants are more courageous than almost all human beings: an orange tree would rather die than produce lemons, whereas instead of dying the average person would rather be someone they are not.”— Mokokoma Mokhonoana