



First Reformed Church, Schenectady

In-person worship requires masks, distance, and no singing.

Order of Worship September 27, 2020
Special Music: Mary and Daniel Carlson
Liturgist: Daniel Carlson
Preacher: Bill Levering

Prelude Max Caplan

Greeting and Call to Worship

***Hymn Peace Like a River**

I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul (repeat)

I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean in my soul (repeat)

I've got joy like a fountain. I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul (repeat)

***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 failed 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 Psalm 104:27-33

Children's Message

Second Reading Revelation 22:1-5

Sermon "Peace Like a River"

Musical Offering

Prayers of the People and 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.

“Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs. I am haunted by waters.” — Norman Maclean, *A River Runs Through it and Other Stories*

“The connections we make in the course of a life-- maybe that's what heaven is.” — Fred Rogers

“We may be surprised at the people we find in heaven. God has a soft spot for sinners. His standards are quite low.” — Desmond Tutu

“May what I do flow from me like a river, no forcing and no holding back, the way it is with children.” — Rainer Maria Rilke

“Have you also learned that secret from the river; that there is no such thing as time?” That the river is everywhere at the same time, at the source and at the mouth, at the waterfall, at the ferry, at the current, in the ocean and in the mountains, everywhere and that the present only exists for it, not the shadow of the past nor the shadow of the future.” — Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*

“TWENTY bridges from Tower to Kew -
Wanted to know what the River knew,
Twenty Bridges or twenty-two,
For they were young, and the Thames was old
And this is the tale that River told:”
— Rudyard Kipling

“We must begin thinking like a river if we are to leave a legacy of beauty and life for future generations.” — David Brower

“A river seems a magic thing. A magic, moving, living part of the very earth itself.”
— Laura Gilpin

“You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching,
Love like you'll never be hurt,
Sing like there's nobody listening,
And live like it's heaven on earth.”
— William W. Purkey

“They can keep their heaven. When I die, I'd sooner go to Middle-earth.” — George R.R. Martin

“I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now...Come further up, come further in!” — C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*

“Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads.”
— Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

“Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, Or what's a heaven for?” — Robert Browning, *Men and Women and Other Poems*