

Sunday, September 15, 2024  
Gathering of Worship



**Beginning at belonging: The Garden**

# God Gathers

## WELCOME

Wherever we are on our journey of faith,  
when we come together, God meets us.

## CALL TO WORSHIP *(words of the people in bold)*

We gather in the name of the God who creates life,  
the Savior who shares our life,  
and the Spirit who is the fire of life.

**We come to see the big picture,**  
to praise God, and remember whose we are.

**We come to share the truth,**  
as children of God, to recognize who we are.

*(whose and who candles are lit)*

**\*OPENING HYMN: *All Creatures of Our God and King* #15**  
**v.1-3, 6**

## SHARING OF GOD'S COMMUNITY

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MILESTONES

*Milestones are shared stories of joy and grief from our lives. We face the congregation, speak to each other, and drop a stone into the jar, marking the*

*\* Please stand as you are able*

*event together and acknowledging God's presence in all things.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Sin is the fundamental lie that we do not belong to God and others. We participate in sin when we dehumanize others and ourselves, violate God's creation, and undermine God's loving connection to us all. Jesus took all alienation from God and each other into himself on the cross, and by his resurrection we are all drawn into Christ's own belonging in God that cannot be broken. (Romans 6:8-11) So, with honesty and trust, we confess sin and welcome God's grace and forgiveness, that we might live with freedom into our belonging to God and each other.*

God, we believe the original lie behind the original sin:  
that you are not trustworthy,  
that we are in this alone, apart and against.  
So, we're filled with insecurity and doubt.  
We act as though we don't need God or each other.  
Instead of trusting we are cared for by you  
and made to care for others,  
we hide our differences and doubt our place.  
We form own self-image and manage other's image of us,  
instead of embracing the image of God reflected in us all,  
the whose we are that makes us who we are.

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

These lies could have been what we were left with.  
These choices could have been what defines us.  
But they are not.  
We are God's beloved from the beginning.  
God never lets go. God never gives up.

God wraps us in care and meets us right where we are,  
in our hiding, in our isolation, in our disregard of one  
another and creation.

God sees us. God gives us what we need.

God invites us back to Shalom: freedom, wholeness and rest.

God says, it is good. And invites us to live in goodness.

In the beginning, and in all our beginnings and our falls,

God keeps the story going.

Thanks be to God.

### \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

As people belonging to God and one another let us share  
God's peace. The Peace of the Risen Christ, God with us, be  
with you.

And also with you. (*greeting each other with peace*)

## God Speaks

### STORY STARTER 1

#### STORY #1

#### "God Creates"

Genesis 1:1-2:3

When beginning, God created in the dark.

Earth and sky had no shape. God's Spirit fluttered over the water.

Then God said, "Let there be light."

Light shone. God saw the light was good.

God called the light Day, and the darkness Night.

There was nighttime and morning, the first day.

Then God said, "Let there be a dome."

A dome appeared, like a ceiling over the water.

God called the ceiling Sky.

There was nighttime and morning, the second day.

Then God said, "Let land appear."

And it did. God saw the land was good.

God called the dry land Earth, and the water around it Seas.

Then God said, "Let the Earth sprout plants and fruit trees."

Up sprouted every plant and tree. God saw goodness in what grew.

There was nighttime and morning, the third day.

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the sky."

The sun, moon, and stars arose, and God saw goodness.

There was nighttime and morning, the fourth day.

Then God said, "Let there be animals in the water, and birds in the sky."

Sea creatures swam. Birds soared across the sky.

God called them good and blessed them.

There was nighttime and morning, the fifth day.

Then God said, "Let there be animals on the land."  
Wild animals and tame animals roamed. God called them good.  
Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image to care for the earth."  
And God created humans and blessed them.  
God saw everything God made and agreed it was all very good.  
There was nighttime and morning, the sixth day.  
  
God finished creating. And on the seventh day, God rested.

## TANGIBLE TEACHING

### SONG *From The Rising of the Sun*

TEXT & MUSIC: Sandra McCracken

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*Hallelujah, give praise you servants.*

*Praise the name of the Lord.*

*Let the name of the Lord be blessed  
for now and forevermore.*

*From the rising of the sun to its going down  
Let the name of the Lord be praised  
from the rising of the sun*

*The Lord is high above all nations  
and God's glory above the heavens  
who is like the Lord our God  
Who sits enthroned on high?  
Who is like the Lord our God?*

*Stoops to behold  
the heavens and the earth.*

*From the rising of the sun to its going down  
Let the name of the Lord be praised  
from the rising of the sun (repeat)*

## STORY STARTER 2

### BIBLE STORY #2

### "In the Garden"

### Genesis 3

God planted a garden in Eden and placed a man and a woman there to live. The trees were beautiful to see, and their branches held delightful fruits to eat. A river flowed from the garden, and animals of all kinds roamed the land.

A snake also lived in the garden. Out of all the wild animals God made, the snake was the most cunning.

The snake asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat any of the fruit from these trees?"

"We can eat fruit from all the trees," she replied, "except the tree in the middle of the garden. God said we cannot eat or touch its fruit. If we do, we will die."

"You won't die," the snake told them. "God knows that if you eat the fruit, you will be like God. Then you'll judge right from wrong."

Eve looked at the tree's fruit. It looked delicious. She wanted to be like God, so she picked some fruit and ate it. The man ate some too.

Then Adam and Eve wanted to cover their bodies and hide. They tore leaves from a fig tree and tried to cover themselves. When they heard God's footsteps in the garden, they did not come out to greet God.

"Where are you?" God called.

The man said, "I heard you, and I was afraid to come out of hiding."

"Why were you afraid?" God wondered. "Did you do what I asked you not to do?"

The man looked at the woman. "She gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."

"Did you?" God asked the woman.

"The snake tricked me, and I ate," she said.

From then on, God made the snake crawl on its belly. Adam and Eve had to work hard to grow their own food. They had to leave the beautiful garden. But not before God sewed clothes for them, so they wouldn't feel like hiding from God.

**SERMON**

Pastor Kara

# We Respond

## SONG

### *God of Wonders*

TEXT & MUSIC: Marc Byrd and Steve Hindalong

© 2000 Never Say Never Songs

*Lord of all creation,  
Of water, earth and sky;  
The heavens are your tabernacle  
Glory to the Lord on high*

*God of wonders beyond our galaxy  
You are holy, holy  
The universe declares your majesty  
You are holy, holy  
Lord of heaven and earth (echo)  
Lord of heaven and earth (echo)*

*Early in the morning,  
I will celebrate the light  
When I stumble in the darkness  
I will call your name by night*

*God of wonders beyond our galaxy  
You are holy, holy  
The universe declares your majesty*

*You are holy, holy  
Lord of heaven and earth (echo)  
Lord of heaven and earth (echo)*

*Hallelujah, to the Lord of heaven and earth  
Hallelujah, to the Lord of heaven and earth  
Hallelujah, to the Lord of heaven and earth*

*God of wonders beyond our galaxy  
You are holy, holy  
The universe declares your majesty  
You are holy, holy Repeat*

*Lord of heaven and earth (echo)  
Lord of heaven and earth (echo)*

## PRAYERS

*Sung response: God, in your loving mercy, hear our prayer*

### 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever, Amen.

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL SLIDE SHOW

## BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

### OFFERING

*Giving money is one way we participate in the God's ministry love and care, tangibly lived between, among and through us. We give from joy, gratitude, and trust, not from obligation, burden, or guilt. Our combined gifts sustain our shared life of continual worship, wide-open hospitality, mutual learning, trust-filled rest, and authentic accompaniment. Reflective giving helps us remember and practice our own place and part in God's unceasing love and belonging for all.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**      **Maisy Root**

*Scan here for online giving*

### DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow!*

*Praise God all creatures here below!*

*Praise God above the heavenly host!*

*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*



*God Sends*

**\*SONG**

*Let All Things Now Living*

**#37**

### BENEDICTION



**TAKE NOTE**



**WORSHIP NEXT  
WEEKEND**

**PET BLESSING SERVICE!  
SATURDAY, 9/21, 5PM**



**CHURCH  
CHAT**

**WEDNESDAY  
9/18  
7PM**



**PEACE TABLE  
BIBLES**

**FIND YOUR BIBLE IN THE TEAL  
GATHERING SPACE!**



**FALL RETREAT**

**NOVEMBER 8-10  
REGISTER ON OUR  
WEBSITE**



**BUILDING CARE**

**TUESDAYS, 10-1  
JOIN US!**