



THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 6, 2023  
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP  
FBC SANCTUARY  
11:00 A.M.

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*When I am gripped by troubling thoughts and emotions, I thrust myself into the greenest space I can find, and I sit still. I know that, due to the precariousness of life, the survival of each living thing I encounter seems to hang almost constantly in the balance. Nevertheless, they burst with beauty, detail, and a very specific set of tools that allow them to persist for another moment. In surrounding myself with the richness of these truths, I find peace.*

- Corina Newsome

Gathering Music

“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”

Peter Scholtes/Mark Hayes. © 1991 & 2006 The Lorenz Corp. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Cristina Adams

Prelude

“Let the Earth Rejoice!”

Dale Wood. © 1996 The Sacred Music Press. Used with permission OneLicense.net #A-401550

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

\* Call to Worship

Pat Transue

Leader: Are you ready? God is about to do a new thing!

**People: God will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.**

Leader: Can you hear it coming?

**People: May justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

\* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 19)

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

FOREST GREEN

\* Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord!**

*If able, please text or message someone from the congregation and share with them the sign of peace.*

\* Responding in Peace (CONGR 20)

“Creation Sings (the Father’s Song)”

CREATION SINGS

**Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing.**

**“Hallelujah!” Fill the earth with songs of worship; tell the wonders of creation’s King.**

\* Gospel Reading

Rev. Cristina Adams

Luke 3.2-6

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Children’s Sermon

*\* In-person worshippers are invited to stand as able*

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Call to Prayer (CONGR 374)

“I Thank You, Lord”  
GRATUS

Hearing our Joys and Concerns

Unison Discipline of Confession

**Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed. Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin. Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen*

Morning Prayer 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response

“Bless the Broken Road”

Words & Music by Marcus Hummon, Bobby Boyd & Jeff Hanna © 1993 Careers-BMG Music Publishing/Floyd’s Dream Music (admin. By Careers-BMG Music Publishing)/Jeff Diggs Music (adm. By Bug)  
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RETURNING OUR GIFTS IN GRATITUDE

Sentences of Stewardship

Offertory

“Offertoire”

Theodore Dubois. © 1957 Lorenz Publishing Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

\* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

Old Testament Reading

Andrew Lord  
Isaiah 43.18-21

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant and FBC Earthworks Blue Team  
Season of Creation: Rivers in the Desert

## CELEBRATING THE TABLE OF GRACE

### Invitation to the Table

#### A Creation Communion Liturgy

Leader: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,

**People: And the Lord's glory covers the earth as the waters over the sea.**

The trees of the field clap their hands, the birds of the air sing songs of praise.

**And if we should fail to express our worship, even the rocks and stones would cry out!**

And so, we lift up our hearts, and we lift up our voices.

**And we offer thanksgiving and adoration to the Lord the Creator of all.**

And now we come to your table again Jesus, mindful of how you laid your life down,

**so that we and creation could be born anew;**

mindful of how you took your life up again,

**so that we and creation could be filled with the life abundant;**

mindful that we cannot earn or purchase this privilege

**but that it is your grace which beckons us,**

and your grace which ensures that all creation may be one and whole.

#### Celebration of the Bread and Cup

"Let Us Break Bread Together" Arr. Mark Hayes. © 2015 Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp.

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\* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 425)

"How Firm a Foundation"

FOUNDATION

#### Life of the Church

#### Benediction

#### Postlude

"Triumphal March Op. 56"

Edvard Grieg. © 1940 Theodore Presser Co./Carl Fischer LLC. Found in the public domain

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*The flowers on the altar this morning are given for the greater glory of God*

#### TODAY IN WORSHIP

*Liturgist: Pat Transue    Organist Evelyn Falen*

*Special music: Mark & Stephanie Robinson, vocalists*

*Scripture Reader: Andrew Lord*

*Livestream Video Crew: Joanna & Brandon Gillette    Sound: Chad Johnston*

*Welcome Table: Tim & Nancy Bonner    YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Susan Pauls*

#### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*Local Church: Trinity Lutheran Church*

*American Baptist Churches, USA; Region Exe. Min. Rev. Miriam Méndez, serving churches in New Jersey*

*International Ministries Missionaries: Patti & Tim Long, serving in Baja, California*

*Cover photo: by Matt Sturtevant*

*\* In-person worshippers are invited to stand as able*