

May 28, 2023 - Pentecost Sunday - Simple Service

Prelude & Livestream begins; Light the Christ candle, Ring bell followed by a moment of silence; Welcome and Announcements

***Opening Responsive Prayer***

One: May we find courage here

**All: courage to follow our call, courage to live out our faith.**

One: May we find hope here

**All: hope for a better world, hope that refuses to let us go.**

One: May we find truth here

**All: truth that lives in sacred community, truth that lives in ancient stories.**

One: May we find all that we seek.

**All: And in our seeking, may we know God. Amen.**

**Opening Song:** *In the Garden* words on back of bulletin

**Unison Prayer of Confession followed by silent reflection:**

**Gracious God, you have implanted your wonderful gifts in the ground and foundation of this world; the treasure of relationship with you through Christ is ours to receive. Yet we are often unaware, sleeping through life. Our minds are distracted, our sensitivity dulled by fatigue or stress from life in the world. Forgive our distorted vision, and as Lord of our hearts, renew us again in peace as your children.**

**Words of Assurance**

**Scripture Readings**

**Message and Invitation** - Connecting with God in the Natural World

**Song:** *Lord of all Hopefulness* Sing the Faith #2197

**Prayers of the Community**

Response: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer (or praise).**

**Unison Prayer:**

**God, Lord of all creation, lover of life and of everything,**

**Please help us to love in our small way**

**What You love infinitely and everywhere.**

**We thank You that we can offer these prayers**

**And that will be more than enough,**

**Because every thing and every one is connected,**

**And nothing stands alone. Help us each day to stand**

**For love, for healing, for the good, for the unity of the Body of Christ and all creation, As Jesus prayed, that all may be one.**

**We offer our prayers together with Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

**Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication**

**Responsive Closing Prayer:**

One: Creator of all, we thank You for summer!

**All: Thank You for the warmth of the sun, spring rain and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty we see all around us and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.**

One: Thank You for the time we have to be with friends and family.

**All: Draw us closer to You this summer. Teach us how we can pray no matter where we are or what we are doing.**

One: Warm our souls with the awareness of Your presence and light our path with Your word and counsel.

As we enjoy Your creation, create in us pure hearts and a hunger and a thirst for You.

**ALL: Amen.**

***Benediction***

One: Creator of the universe, we thank You for all the sun-touched gifts of this day.

God of Day and Night, of Life and Death, we place ourselves into Your holy hands for our summer Sabbath.

**ALL: Let us go forth in Your peace. Amen.**

We are a congregation of people, **Loving, living, learning the joy of faith.**