

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**YMCA Park**  
**SEPTEMBER 3, 2017**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We are gathered in the name of God, the Creator, the fountain of life; in the name of Christ, the pulse of life; and in the name of the Holy Spirit, the breath of life.

**People: Holy! Holy! Holy! The whole earth is filled with God's presence.**

Leader: We come into God's presence to worship in this sanctuary called earth,

**People: A planet pulsing with God's presence, a presence quivering in the forests, a presence vibrating in the land, a presence pulsing in the wilderness, a presence shimmering in the rivers.**

Leader: God, reveal yourself to us in this place, and show us your face in all creation.

**People: Holy! Holy! Holy! The whole earth is filled with God's glory.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**HYMN**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
*(The Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger may be brought forward at this time.)*

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

*(Refrain)*

Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: *(Refrain)*

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: *(Refrain)*

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: *(Refrain)*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**People: We remember the dry land that rose from waters in the beginning, the plants that emerged from the soil to cover the land with vegetation, and the rich diversity of animal life. We remember the gardens and the fields of our childhood, the places where we played in the sand, when we felt close to the ground, to fragrant flowers, and to baby animals.**

Leader: Jesus Christ, once buried in earth, hear our cry:

**People: We regret that we have become separated from the earth, and treated this garden planet as a beast to be tamed, as a domain to be dominated, and as a place to be developed for personal gain.**

Leader: We remember and confess how we have violated and polluted the lands of this garden planet.

**People: We are sorry. We have killed living soils with chemicals, we have turned fertile fields into lifeless plains, and we have cleared rich lands of wildlife. We have abused the world you have given us. Forgive us and help us mend our ways.**

Leader: Christ hears our confession. God stands ready to forgive our sin and calls us now to tend this good earth with care, to live as faithful stewards, who protect rather than destroy what God has given us. Friends, believe the good news,

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

**RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS**

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.  
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION

*Exodus 3:1-6*

HYMN

*They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

*(Refrain)*

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;  
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: *(Refrain)*

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;  
We will work with each other; we will work side by side,  
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: *(Refrain)*

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: *(Refrain)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

*(Chorus)*

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. *(chorus)*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. *(chorus)*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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**Rally Day is Sunday, September 10.** Plan to come for breakfast in the gym at 9:30 a.m. as all classes are introduced. Leaders and Teachers in the Christian Education program will be recognized during worship at 11:00 a.m.

**Children's Church Workshop...** On Sunday, September 10, we will gather briefly following worship in the chapel to discuss the aspects of Children's Church. We would like to extend the invitation to all who are on the calendar to lead Children's Church this year and anyone else who may be interested in learning more about what the children do during worship. We would love to increase our number of volunteers and substitutes! If you have questions you can call or email Dona Lisk (704-591-5934 or [liskdona@gmail.com](mailto:liskdona@gmail.com)).