



7:00 PM March 6, 2019

### THE GATHERING

**PRELUDE** In the Cross of Christ I Glory Wilbur Held

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Lucy Gordon

Leader: Out of darkness came light;  
**ALL: AND THE POWER OF GOD WAS REVEALED**  
 Men: in the running wave and the flowing air,  
*Women: in the quiet earth and the shining stars.*  
 Leader: Out of the dust came life;  
**ALL: AND THE IMAGE OF GOD WAS REVEALED**  
**Men: in the human face and the gentle heart,**  
*Women: in the warmth of flesh and the depth of soul.*  
 Leader: Out of justice came freedom;  
**ALL: AND THE WISDOM OF GOD WAS REVEALED**  
**Men: in the need to grow and the will to love,**  
*Women: in the chance to know and the power to choose.*  
 Leader: And God looked at creation,  
**ALL: AND BEHOLD, IT WAS VERY GOOD.**

**\*HYMN** We Plow the Fields and Scatter Aurelia  
*(See insert)*

**PRAYER OF RELEASING** Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips

Holy, holy, holy God  
 We place ourselves in your presence; we rest in the promise of your grace.  
 Our minds and our spirits are cluttered with many thoughts and feelings that threaten to pull our attention away from you. Let us unclench our fists and release these things:

We release all that we have done today – whether for good or for ill.

We release all that we feel like we should have done today, but did not do.

We release all that we need to do tomorrow.

We release our fear. We release our anxiety. We release our impatience. We release our pride.

All of the thoughts, all of the feelings that pull us away from you, O God, we release.

Fill us now with the joy and the peace of your deep, abiding presence.

We offer all of ourselves to you, our One God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.  
 Amen

### PRAYERS OF CONCERN Barbara Adamcik

Leader: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole community of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.  
 Hear our prayers for others ...  
 Hear our prayers for ourselves ...  
 Gracious God in the death of Jesus Christ you accepted the pain and hurt of the whole creation. The arms of his cross stretched out across the broken world in reconciliation.

**People: You have made peace with us. Help us to make peace with you by sharing your reconciling work. May we recognize your spirit disturbing and challenging us to care for creation and for the poor who most feel the effects of its abuse. O God, the whole of creation groans. Set us free and make us whole. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READING Romans 8:18-25

#### CREATION LITURGY

Caroline: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.  
 Maggie: Then God said, "Let there be light";  
 Caroline: and there was light.  
 Lucy: And God saw that the light was good;  
 Katie: and God separated the light from the darkness.  
 Anna Grace: God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night.  
**ALL: And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.**

Maggie: And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."  
 Katie: So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome.  
 Caroline: And it was so.  
 Anna Grace: God called the dome Sky.  
**ALL: And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.**  
 Maggie: And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear."

Caroline: And it was so.  
 Anna Grace: God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together God called Seas.  
 Ian: And God saw that it was good.  
 Maggie: Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it."  
 Caroline: And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it.  
 Ian: And God saw that it was good.  
**ALL: And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.**

Maggie: And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth."  
 Caroline: And it was so.  
 Katie: God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness.  
 Ian: And God saw that it was good.  
**ALL: And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.**

Maggie: And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky."  
 Lucy: So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind.  
 Ian: and God saw that it was good.  
 Maggie: God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."  
**ALL: And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.**

Anna Grace: And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind."  
 Lucy: And it was so.  
 Katie: God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind.  
 Ian: And God saw that it was good.  
 Caroline: Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."  
 Katie: So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God they were created; male and female God created them.  
 Maggie: God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and

multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food."

Caroline: And it was so.

Anna Grace: God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.

**ALL: And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.**

Caroline: Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the multitude. And on the seventh day God finished this work, and rested on the seventh day from all God's work. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all God's work in creation.

#### INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

#### IMPOSITION OF ASHES *(The people uniting.)*

**Almighty God, you have created us out of dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*The people are invited to come forward to receive ashes.*

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### CLOSING RESPONSES

Anna Grace Gilbert

Leader: This we know, the earth does not belong to us,

**ALL: WE BELONG TO THE EARTH.**

Leader: This we know, all things are connected,

**ALL: LIKE THE BLOOD THAT UNITES ONE FAMILY.**

Leader: This we know, we did not weave the web of life,

**ALL: WE ARE MERELY A STRAND IN IT.**

Leader: This we know, whatever we do to the web,

**ALL: WE DO TO OURSELVES.**

Leader: Let us give thanks for the gift of creation,

**ALL: LET US GIVE THANKS THAT ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER IN CHRIST.**

#### BLESSING

Buran Phillips

Leader: Bless unto us, O God, the moon that is above us, the earth that is beneath us, the friends who are around us, your image deep within us,

**ALL: AMEN.**

#### THE SENDING

**\*HYMN NO. 384** (blue hymnal) O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go *St. Margaret*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

As you depart, you are invited to greet your neighbors with the words, "**Peace be with you.**" The appropriate response is: "**And also with you.**"

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#### WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*"Where Faith and Life Connect"*

6500 Northshore Drive, Knoxville TN 37919

Telephone (865) 584-3957 Fax (865) 584-8840

E-mail [westminsterpres@comcast.net](mailto:westminsterpres@comcast.net)

[www.wpcknox.org](http://www.wpcknox.org)

Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips, Pastor

Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate

Peter Van Eenam, Organist and Choirmaster

Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries

Allie Brewington, Director of Children's Ministries

Mary Boyd, Education Coordinator

Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Melissa Everett, Administrative Assistant

Daniel Lewis, Youth Assistant

Debbie Bendy, *Abbey* Editor

**MANY THANKS** to Eileen Rudd for serving as Organist tonight.

#### COMPANIONS IN CHRIST

You are invited to join with Companions in Christ to journey deeper into your relationship with God during Lent. Companions meet for song, silence, scripture reading and prayer in the Prayer Room at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday, except when a service is held in the sanctuary.

**SERVICE OF PEACE AND HOPE:** We hope you will make plans to join us in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, March 27 at 7:00 pm for a Service of Peace and Hope - Experiencing God's Love Through the Arts.

**LENTEN DAILY DEVOTIONALS** are available on the table in the Narthex.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** A special offering will be collected during the Season of Lent. Through this long standing, ecumenical effort, Presbyterians share God's love through ministries that provide relief to those affected by disasters, food for the hungry and support toward the self-development of poor and oppressed communities.

- 32% Restoring Hope (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) Working alongside communities as they recover and find hope after natural or human-caused disasters.
- 36% Reducing Hunger (Presbyterian Hunger Program) Supporting initiatives that create sustainable food systems and alleviate root cases of poverty so all may be fed.
- 32% Partnering in Progress ( Self Development of People) Providing resources and education to oppressed and disadvantaged communities working to overcome poverty and injustice through initiatives they own and directly benefit from.

**GODSPELL** will be performed by our Westminster Players the weekend of April 5, 6, and 7. It is a musical that follows the story of Jesus Christ as he forms a community of lovable disciples, who teach lessons by singing songs and performing skits, before culminating in his betrayal and crucifixion.