

MUMC At-Home Worship: May 2, 2021

“Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!”

This line, both the first and the last line of Psalm 8, is a favorite of mine. Saints across the years have mused about nature’s innate ability to open us to the presence of God and this psalm captures it well. I encourage us to settle ourselves in the words of scripture during worship today and, if you have the chance, I wonder what a balm it might be to the spirit if we were to take some time to look for God outside in the natural world this week. Thanks for worshipping with us! ~ *Pastor Dillon*

If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:

God of all of us and God of each of us, find us this day and open our hearts to your marvelous might and your intricate care. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

Hymn: *All Creatures of Our God and King*, United Methodist Hymnal #62 [watch/listen here](#)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 8

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflect:

1. This psalm describes God as “majestic.” What might it mean for God to be majestic? What are some ways the imagery throughout the rest of this psalm builds on this description?
2. When was the last time you stopped and looked up at the sky? What was that experience like for you? How might our observation of nature, whether the night sky or anything else, impact our faith and spiritual wellbeing?
3. The psalmist asks, “What are human beings that you ... pay attention to them?” How might you answer this question? What might it reveal that God has invited us to care for all the land and animals of God’s own creation?

Hymn: *For the Beauty of the Earth*, United Methodist Hymnal #92 [watch/listen here](#)

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Hymn: *How Great Thou Art*, United Methodist Hymnal #77 [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer: Majestic God, we thank you for the care you have shown to all of creation and to each of us. May your love for us shine through us as we make our way through this wonderful world this week. Amen.

(Blow out the candle)

All Creatures of Our God and King
United Methodist Hymnal #62

1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam
O sister moon with silver gleam!

Refrain:
O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. O brother wind, air, clouds and rain,
by which all creatures ye sustain,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice! [Refrain]
3. O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother fire who lights the night,
providing warmth, enhancing sight,
[Refrain]
4. Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them God's glory also show!
[Refrain]
5. All ye who are of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on him cast your care!
[Refrain]

“All Creatures of Our God and King” words by Francis of Assisi, ca. 1225; trans. By William H. Draper, 1925, adapt. 1987; music is Geistliche Kirchengesange, 1623; harm. By Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906. Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Psalm 8 (CEB)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic
is your name throughout the earth!
You made your glory higher than heaven!
From the mouths of nursing babies
you have laid a strong foundation
because of your foes,
in order to stop vengeful enemies.
When I look up at your skies,
at what your fingers made—
the moon and the stars
that you set firmly in place—
what are human beings
that you think about them;
what are human beings
that you pay attention to them?
You've made them only slightly less than
divine, crowning them with glory and
grandeur.
You've let them rule over your handiwork,
putting everything under their feet—
all sheep and all cattle,
the wild animals too,
the birds in the sky,
the fish of the ocean,
everything that travels the pathways of
the sea.
Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name
throughout the earth!

Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

For the Beauty of the Earth
United Methodist Hymnal #92

1. 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.

2. For the beauty 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]
3. 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]
4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild; [Refrain]
5. For thy church, that evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering upon every shore
her pure sacrifice of love; [Refrain]
6. For thyself, best Gift Divine,
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth, and joy in heaven:
[Refrain]

“For the Beauty of the Earth” words by Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864; music by Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. by W. H. Monk, 1861; and both are in the public domain.

How Great Thou Art
United Methodist Hymnal #77

1. Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have
made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling
thunder, thy power throughout the
universe displayed:

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to
thee; how great thou art, how great thou
art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God,
to thee; how great thou art, how great
thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest
glades I wander, and hear the birds sing
sweetly in the trees; when I look down
from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the
brook, and feel the gentle breeze;
[Refrain]
3. And when I think that God, his Son not
sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take
it in; that on the cross, my burden gladly
bearing, he bled and died to take away
my sin. [Refrain]
4. When Christ shall come with shout of
acclamation and take me home, what joy
shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow in
humble adoration, and there proclaim,
my God, how great thou art! [Refrain]

*“How Great Thou Art” words and music by
Stuart K. Hine, 1953; © 1953, renewed 1981
Manna Music, Inc.*