

## WORSHIP SERVICE PLAN

(Traditional & Online Service)

May 25, 2025 • Care for Creation, Part Four  
Memorial Day Weekend • Fifth Sunday in Easter

**Revelation 21:1-8; 22:1-7**

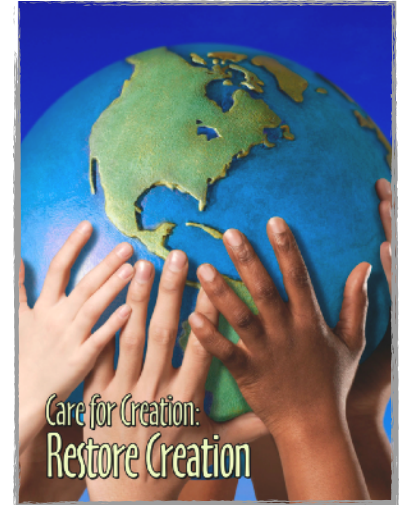
*"Restore Creation"*

God expects us to be healing.

### (online only) Preparation for Worship

Gather these items for worship. If you don't have a particular item, fret not:

- a piece of white cloth
- an end table or stand
- a plate
- a cup
- a glass or bowl of water
- a lighter/match
- a roll of gauze or a bandage
- a computer or internet-accessible device
- a thank you card to God for something this week



For each item you have, thank God for the provision. For each piece you do not have, thank God you don't need it. Place the table/stand in the area you plan to worship. If more than one person will be present, place the table in the middle of where you will be seated. Drape the cloth over it. Arrange the cup, plate, glass of water, and other items on the table. Keep the Bible in front of you.

### Questions for the announcement loop

*In preparing for Worship, consider the following:*

- What happens with the earth when we all get to heaven?
- Why do you think God cares about restoring the earth?
- What are you doing to realize God's dream of a "new heaven and a new earth"?
- What does God need to make new in you?

### (10am only) Call to Worship

*"Christ Has Arisen!" by Daniel Mattix*

**Christ has arisen as our King.**

**Conquering death and sin's vile sting!**

**With all creation join to sing; Alleluia!...**

*Liturgy:*

*Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!*

**Alleluia!**

*Praise to you by both be given,*

**Alleluia!**

*Risen Christ, triumphant now,*

**Alleluia!**

*Every knee to you shall bow,*

**Alleluia!**

*Alleluia!*

**Amen!**

**Christ has arisen from the grave,**

**He rose to triumph and to save!**

**New life to humankind he gave:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### (10am only) Prelude:

*"O How I Love Jesus" arr. Melody Bober*

### Opening Sentence

**Revelation 21:3 (CEB)**

I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look!

God's dwelling is *here* with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God."

**Welcome to this service of Worship, We are glad you are with us! We have a few Community Notes for you to consider as we worship throughout the week...**

### Welcome Visitors!

We are glad you are here! Our nursery is in the Education Building and our restrooms are in the buildings other than the Sanctuary.

### Spiritual Neosporin

Alcohol. Peroxide. Antibiotic cream. Lotion. Honey (yes, honey). Even kissing to make it better. We apply all kinds of balms to wounds. But it is all for

one purpose, even as they all perform differently: to encourage healing. Where one disinfects, another spurs cell growth, another just makes us feel better (the kiss, of course). Yet somehow they all point to the wound closing and God's good design doing the rest. It's not unlike our partnership with God over the earth and with each other. Healing is far and away God's dream. Restoration, revival, resurrection, reconciliation, salvation: they all point to this urging from God that life should thrive. So as you move through the week, what are you doing to encourage healing? What kind of agent are you for fulfilling God's dream? What kind of healer are you?

at tables throughout the Fellowship Hall (and if need be, the Education Building). Come and join in and let's learn a thing or two about each other!

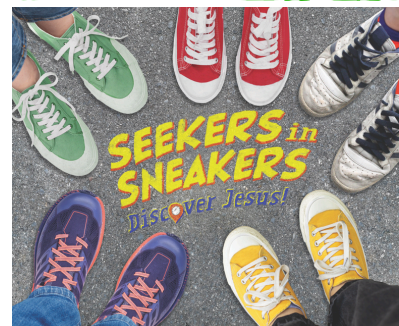


**Youth Stock**

See one of us after worship to make your investment!

Help us make it to our faith destination by buying Youth Stock!

When you purchase youth stock, you are investing in our faith and the future of our Church. You can purchase Youth Stock for only \$10 a share. And there is no limit to how many shares you can buy!! The dividend you will receive for your investment included a note written by youth attending the conferences and a delicious dinner at the end of the summer where we will tell you all about our experiences at the conferences.



**9AM to 11AM**  
**MONDAYS**  
**June 16, 23, 30**  
**& July 7**  
**Vacation Bible School**

This year we will be hosting some of the children from the Hawfields Child Care Center for VBS! For four Monday mornings, we will be holding VBS at the church for the children of rooms 10 and 11. Children and grandchildren of the church, ages 4 and up (and their friends) are also invited to take part! If you would like to be part of the VBS team of leaders, please complete the form inside or contact Mandy Ealy at [mandy@hawfieldschurch.org](mailto:mandy@hawfieldschurch.org) or Caroline Massey. Watch for how to register your children or grandchildren.

**MISSION:**  
**POSSIBLE!**  
**Kids Edition**

**Saturday,**  
**June 28th**  
**9AM to 1PM**

Join us for a day of mission project fun as we learn about what it means to serve our neighbors! We will begin the day with singing and a Bible story then break into groups to create toys for the animal shelter; run, hop, and skip to gather items for hygiene kits; get a little dirty helping in the church gardens; and enjoy a snack and story. This experience is for children ages 3 and up. Families are welcome to stay for the fun! If you would like to help with this event, please complete the form inside or contact Mandy Ealy at [mandy@hawfieldschurch.org](mailto:mandy@hawfieldschurch.org).

### Walk Humbly

In a world that values, admires, even holds as virtuous bombast and unapologetic swagger, the idea of humility can seem quaint, if not naive. And yet the key to pleasing God, to living our best life, centers around the ways in which we choose humility: in our responses, in our reflections, in ourselves before a God who humbles before us. How can this *possibly* be? We will enter the summer digging into Scripture's take on this and the ways in which we are called to *Walk Humbly*. Be looking for the study materials on our website and Facebook page.

### Game Night!

Friday, May 23rd, starting at 7pm, is once again Game Night! Bring your favorite card or board game to share as well as a snack. We will break out



### Memorial Day Is an Opportunity

Like other holidays, Memorial Day is an arbitrarily set date but the occasion is far from arbitrary. There are many who have given their lives in service for our country and the furthering of our common

ideals. Taking time to remember them is an important part of how we express our thanks. Our scouts are taking time to place flags on graves in our cemetery. Take time to walk through and observe the names. Also think of the families who lost members. Offer your prayers of gratitude for living in a country of laws, of principles, of freedoms, of solemn responsibilities, and of people willing to give up their lives.

**(10am only) Greet one another in Christ!**

**(10am only) "This Is the Day CEL #209**

**This is the day, that the Lord has made.**

**We will rejoice and be glad in it**

**This the day that Lord has made;**

**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.**

***God expects our lives to sing.***

In this moment, let us remain standing, take a deep breath, silence our devices, and continue in worship. Let us sing our opening song together...

**Sing:**

*"O Worship the King" GTG#41*

**Prayer of Confession/Preparation**

*We spend a lot of time and energy on consuming and very little on restoring and healing, especially when it comes to relationships. We need to fix that. It's important to talk about our shortcomings so that we're ready to hear what God has to say. Let us begin with silent prayer...*

*(Please pray silently...)*

**Pray: Creator God, every tree, every watering hole, every animal, even the ebbs and flows of the air, you placed at our disposal. And we are doing that. You have given us eyes and ears, voices and hearts and minds to see, hear, know and feel one another: again, all at our disposal. And we are doing that. Help us remember what you actually asked us to do. Help us remember that, for all the encouragement to consume, we are also called to restore. We are called to heal what is torn, bind what is broken, restore what is exhausted. Honestly, God: it all belongs to**

**you anyway, WE all belong to you anyway. Help us remember all we have is a gift. May we come to reflect your generosity as enthusiastically as we receive it. Thank you for listening, God. Amen.**

**(10am only) Assurance of Pardon**

*God's love can change everything, even the power of our sins over us. And it is God's will that we have this power:*

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

*The Peace of Christ be with you*

**And also with you.**

**(10am only) Gloria Patri (Glory to God)**

**Glory be to the Father**

**And to the Son**

**And to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning**

**It is now and ever shall be**

**World without end: Amen, amen.**

**Reading of Scripture**

*Say: The Word of God doesn't just inform: it reveals. The Word of God doesn't just tell us the truth, it empowers us to live our true path. The Word of God, by God's own Spirit, teaches us to live. Let us be open to this gift of God and ask for help to understand. Let us pray...(everyone sings)*

**Pray/Sing:** *"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"*  
(GTG #232)

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!**

**Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!**

**Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!**

**Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

*Listen closely to the Word of God to us all and our ongoing place in God's story...*

**Read: Revelation 21:1-8; 22:1-7 (CEB)**

*God's dreams for what comes.*

21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's



dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” <sup>5</sup> Then the one seated on the throne said, “Look! I’m making all things new.” He also said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, “All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring. <sup>7</sup> Those who emerge victorious will inherit these things. I will be their God, and they will be my sons and daughters. <sup>8</sup> But for the cowardly, the faithless, the vile, the murderers, those who commit sexual immorality, those who use drugs and cast spells, the idolaters and all liars—their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. This is the second death.”

<sup>22:1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, shining like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the city’s main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life, which produces twelve crops of fruit, bearing its fruit each month. The tree’s leaves are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> Night will be no more. They won’t need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine on them, and they will rule forever and always.

<sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place. <sup>7</sup> Look! I’m coming soon. Favored is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy contained in this scroll.”

*One: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us...*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Children’s Sermon

*Adults, you’ll need:*

- a picture or personal example of a scar (it’s better if it’s yours)
  - Don’t forget to wait for answers
- “Not Like New”*
- I want to show you something...this is a scar. Whenever you get hurt, get a cut, several things happen, right?
  - First, it hurts! It doesn’t feel good and it makes you want to avoid getting cut again. Sometimes, if the cut is deep enough, it bleeds. That be messy and gross. But did you know that the bleeding helps your cut not to get infected? It’s like the blood is pushing the bad germs out.
  - But then the blood and skin get together and work on coming back together. They stop the bleeding and your body makes its own bandage! It’s called a scar.
  - The scar not only helps protect you, but it’s also a reminder that you were hurt. But the most important thing a scar does is show you that you can heal. That your body doesn’t WANT to stay hurt, but it wants to heal.
  - Our faith is like that. We have so many things that can hurt us: a bad word, friends lying, someone dying or getting badly hurt, losing something important. But our faith can give us scars that remind us God wants us to heal.
  - So when you’re around the people who care about you, be sure and ask them about their scars. Don’t be afraid if there are tears.
  - Don’t forget to pray!

## (10am only) Anthem:

*“A Joyful, Jubilant Song!”* by Michael Barrett and David Angerman

## Sermon: “Restore Creation”

I remember so well reading the book, **Left Behind**. It was a big piece of midrash based off of an evangelical take on the end times as the authors understood it. It takes as literal the descriptions in the book of Revelation and tries to paint a picture incorporating our present times. It was scary and interesting and over the top. It told the story from the perspectives of those who DIDN’T go up in the rapture. They were, as the title suggests, left behind.

While it was an interesting thought experiment, and I believe the authors were sincere in their hopes that someone would read this and come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, the theology it's based on is wrong.

**Revelation is one of those books** that often gets leveraged to scare people into faith. It's raised up with books like Daniel and Ezekiel and even some parts of Jesus' words in the Gospels to keep a sense of mystery about what's going to happen and to paint as scary a picture of the consequences of the sinful life AFTER death. Because of how strange it can be, I've seen preachers and theologians (they are NOT always the same) take advantage of folks' desire to do right by God and themselves and make the book say things it doesn't say.

Don't get me wrong: Revelation is a strange book, to be sure. But the clue to God's intention with this body of Scripture is in the name: **Revelation**. God isn't trying to hide things or pull the wool over our eyes. God's *trying* to show us something. And skipping all the way to the end, what does God want us to know about THE end? Not the end times, but where things, where WE end up? Given how everything started, what is to become of Creation? What's to become of us?

**Read: Revelation 21:1-8; 22:1-7 (CEB)**  
**God's dreams for what comes.**

The last several weeks we've been talking about the **care of Creation**. We've been talking about how to think about it, our responsibilities with it all, God's intentions with us and the world around us. I think it's fair to say that, often, when we talk about our use of resources, our consumption, we presume that we aren't going to be here later. Not only is there a sense that we're going to leave all of this behind someday, we either consciously or subconsciously leave our sense of responsibility behind also.

**What does it matter** if I use everything up? When we all get to heaven, what's here won't matter. Right? If I eat everything in sight, if I use all the oil in the ground, if I don't pick up after myself, the earth is a secondary concern.

There's just one problem with that mindset. It's not particularly Biblical. It's not Godly.

**The passage doesn't say**, "I saw a new heaven" and then leave it there. It says "a new heaven AND a new earth." In fact, the word for "heaven" used there is also the word for "sky." A new sky and earth. And what about the sea being no more? Remember, when God's Spirit moved over the watery chaos? Water has always been a symbol of chaos and disorder. When the end comes, chaos comes to an end. Creation becomes what it was supposed to be. And most importantly, God gets what God has always wanted.

**Immanuel**. God with us.

It should give us pause that this is God's dream. It should buoy our spirits and cause us to wonder. How can this possibly be God's dream?

But God's dream is toward the healing of what has been broken. God wants to restore what has been torn. God wants to bind what has been separated. God wants to be with us. And if we want to be with God, that means we need to be with each other. Part of restoring Creation is restoring our relationships. Healing the ways in which we press to separate and figure out why God is so crazy about us.

And as far as the attitude that it's okay to trash everything? To consider stuff, people, even nations, disposable? **God's answer for that is in the leaves.**

*On each side of the river is the tree of life, which produces twelve crops of fruit, bearing its fruit each month. The tree's leaves are for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse.*

Healing of the nations. Y'all, the nations don't just disappear in God's dream. They're still here. And for all of you Bible nerds out there, twelve is the number of governance. Twelve tribes. Twelve disciples. Twelve trees producing their fruit in twelve months the leaves of which heal the nations. Not some nations. THE nations.

Fantastic! Great! Happy to hear it. Glad everything gets sorted out. In fact, God, it can't happen too soon. Make it happen...anytime.

But...then there's **verse 7**.

I suppose at some point our ability to be spectators was going to end. I mean we started out the Creation story talking about our part in it. We aren't just here to watch. We're here to work. We're supposed to be tilling the earth. Tending. Steering. Caring. Cultivating. Co-creating.

And as a part of the people looking for the coming of Christ, even at the end of the end, we still have a job to do. Keep the words of the prophecy, it says.

Okay. But what does THAT mean?

**First, remember, what does a prophet do?** Speak for God. That's it. And what is a prophecy? God-talking. When we say there will be a new heaven and a new earth, sure, we're technically telling the future. But saying things like that *really* means we're trusting God with that future NOW, not just then. It's a way of saying we believe God's got us this moment, not just in the hereafter. And believing God's promise means trusting God's command to do what we were MADE to do.

On an occasion like **Memorial Day Weekend**, it can be easy to get caught up in a sense of duty and patriotism and hero worship. After all, we didn't *all* go into battles, we didn't *all* do the training, travel to strange places, take up arms, and give up our lives, all for ideals we *all* claim to own and believe in. While we are, of course, thankful for our veterans, Memorial Day is not about the veterans. It's about the prophets. It's about the people who believed in the dream of our country enough to risk not being able to dream anymore. It about the families who are left without their loved ones for the sake of an idea that the world should be better than we found it. Memorial Day is about remembering what those who sacrificed their lives are empowering us to do now. For all the turmoil, the heartbreak, the struggles, we endure, God's dreams for the end aren't about who's defeated or wiped out or destroyed. God's dreams are about healing, restoring, establishing. God's dreams are

about the notion that Creation, all of Creation, is what God called it from the beginning: good. Very good. What are we doing to help it get there?

**Revelation is not hard to understand.** It's just hard to conceive and achieve. Revelation is not mysterious or strange. It's just elusive. And our role in all of it hasn't changed. Our mission with Creation is the same as it started. What we know now is that part of our responsibility isn't just to use the earth. God expects us to be healing. That means sometimes giving up our lives to stand up against tyranny. That means sometimes speaking up when the bullying voices want to drown us out. That means refusing to go along with the infections and festering wounds that would keep us broken. That means seeing to it that things, that WE, grow. Our theme is the same as our mission: care for Creation.

Why is it possible to do this, even in the face of death?

**Christ is risen!**

**The Lord is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

**Song of Reflection**

"As the Deer" CEL #548

**Offering**

God chooses to love us, abundantly. We should respond by choosing to be loving, abundantly. This is why we should give and share what we have and who we are. Let us reflect together on what has been given...

**(10am only) Offertory**

"As the Deer" arr. Douglas E. Wagner

**(10am only) Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Praise God above ye heavenly hosts;**

**Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

## Blessing

(text online only)

Let there be no doubt, Great God: you love us. And we are grateful. Let there be no doubt, Great God: we should be loving in turn. As we receive the gifts you provide, may the gifts we are meant to be emerge. In the great name of Jesus Christ, we pray this together. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

- Say: The Lord be with you...and also with you. Let us pray...
- "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" (GTG #240)  
**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name (2 X)**
- Holy God, You have empowered us to do amazing things! We are capable of such nobility, kindnesses, even love. But, as you know too well, we can also be just plain evil. And as we struggle with that tension we struggle against times and people that would require loved ones to die in service to country. We pray for those who have lost so much and we pray for the behavior of our nations that still require such sacrifices. But we also relish and live into your dream that the earth will one day be healed. That the nations will be healed.
- Help us share that dream, O God. Help us see their deaths as a reason to live creating: healing, restoring, grafting, covering, tilling, cultivating, growing. May this not only be true of our hearts, but of our lives as well. For all that we might do to restore the earth, help us be mindful to do that with one another.
- Thus, let us be Godly people. Let us make a habit of compassion and consolation. Let us make second nature your grace and mercy and sense of justice. Let us set aside safety and embrace risk-taking with you. May your healing balm reach through us to those around us, especially those on our prayer lists and those we will come to know. Help us love and give love. Help us value mercy as you do. Despite our collective answer of violence, of disdain, of division, of cynicism, to your love, may we truly be washed by you and embrace hope instead...(take time to name your own prayers)

- Thank you for believing in us, Thank you for transforming us. Thank you for teaching us, even how to pray when words fail us, saying,
- **Pray: 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## Hymn of Sending

(10am) "I Love to Tell the Story" GTG #462

## Sending & Benediction

Let us say together our benediction...

**God expects us to be healing.**

(raise your hands and say) "Get up, take heart, Jesus is still calling you..."; Go, and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding guide your hearts and minds this day and forever more. Amen!

## Christ is risen!

**The Lord is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

**Sing:** "Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!"

(GTG #390)

**Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!**

**Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!**

**Praise God's holy name, alleluia! Praise God's holy name! Alleluia!**

**Praise God's holy name, alleluia! Praise God's holy name! Alleluia!**

**Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!**

**Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!**

## (10am only) Postlude

"The Cross Medley" arr. Melody Bober

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