

THE PRESENT WORD

W O R S H I P L E A F L E T

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

Praise befits the upright.

Praise the Lord with the lyre;

Make melody to God with the harp of ten strings. Praise the Lord.

PRAYER

Holy God, we lift our voices in songs of praise to you. You created the world by calming the waters and winds, separating the seas from the land and the earth from the heavens. Your hands formed the birds of the air, the animals of the land and humanity. We stand in wonder and awe as we realize you have called us to be your own. May your Spirit's presence enhance our time together as we study your written Word today. Amen.

HYMN: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

I sing the mighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;

The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food,

Who formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.

Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,

If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:1–13 (*To be read from the reverse side, responsively or in unison.*)

PRAYING WITH AND FOR ONE ANOTHER

God of all creation, we thank you for your mercy and your goodness toward us. We know that we can look to you in times of need and doubt. There are those who are filled with uncertainty. Through your loving care, give them the sense that you are standing with them. Lift them out of feelings of despair. Enable them to grasp your concern and love for them. Help us to be open to their needs. Make us instruments of your mercy and love.

There are those who wander through life without purpose. Give them a sense of your will for their lives and the strength to pursue it. Remove the desire to glance a critical eye at them and teach us to show compassion and forbearance to all your children. Amen.

HYMN: "This Is My Father's World"

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears

All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought

Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;

His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world: the battle is not done:
Jesus Who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heav'n be one.

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GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND EARTH

SCRIPTURE READING FOR TODAY: Genesis 1:1–13

1:1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,

²the 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.

³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”

⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.

⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so.

¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹Then 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.” And it was so.

¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.

¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

VERSES TO REMEMBER: 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. (Genesis 1:1–2)

FOR NEXT SUNDAY: God Created Plants and Animals (Genesis 1:14–25)