

AGAPE FEAST

GOSPEL LESSON

1 Corinthians 2:9-11 (the Voice Translation)

"But as the Scriptures say:

*No eye has ever seen,
and no ear has ever heard,
and it has never occurred to the human heart -
All the things God prepared for those who love the Lord.*

God has shown us these profound and startling realities through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep mysteries of God. Who can see into a human heart and know their thoughts? Only the spirit that dwells within the human. In the same way, the thoughts of God are known only by the Holy Spirit.

CALL TO THE FEAST

PRAYER OF ADORATION:

Living God, you are present in our midst and we praise you. You are tearing down walls of alienation and exclusion. For this, we praise you because, in Jesus, you have shown us a way of hospitality, simplicity, prayer, peacemaking, and resistance. Because your Spirit makes a new path for us, as we struggle to live in the shadow of doubt and fear. Weak as we are, you fill us with hope. Lover of our souls, you give us joy and we praise you. Amen.

SIGNS & SYMBOLS

SHARING THE FEAST

"Sesame Street Flower Film" (Y.T.)

"MODERN" LESSON

"CLOUD ANTHEM"

(Poem by Richard Blanco, from his 2019 collection called *How To Love a Country*)

SONG:

PRAISE TO GOD

(EMILIA)

VIDEO AND CONVERSATION

"CREATION HEALS"

with Lanecia Rouse Tinsley

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(You are invited unmute yourself and share your prayer of joy or sorrow and the gathered body, led by Pastor Emilia will reply "God, hear our prayer.")

PASTORAL PRAYER

"Our God, to Whom We Turn" by Edward Grubb, 1925

Lord's Prayer: (Translation by Neil Douglas-Klotz in Prayers of the Cosmos)

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos, focus your light within us - make it useful. Create your reign of unity now-through our fiery hearts and willing hands. Help us love beyond our ideals and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures. Animate the earth within us: we then feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all. Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other. Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back from our true purpose. Out of you, the astonishing fire, returning light and sound to the cosmos. Amen.

SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

CLOSING SONG: #556

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

God, who stretched the spangled heavens,
infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance
through the silent fields of space,
we, your children, in your likeness,
share inventive powers with you.
Great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.

We have ventured worlds undreamed of
since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging
through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom,
yielding unimagined power,
facing us with life's destruction
or our most triumphant hour.

As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose,
serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise,
each endeavor well begun.
Great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.

BENEDICTION & SENDING: "O God the Creator" by Elizabeth Haile and Cecil Corbett
O God, the Creator, the three in one, the Creator of earth and moon and sun;
You have loved and protected us since time first began -

And we're brothers and sisters in God's Love; In God's Love we are One.

For the earth is our mother where all things grow, and her valleys are green where
the waters flow; Gentle deer and the eagle and the mighty buffalo -

And we're brothers and sisters in God's Love; In God's Love we are One.

We are one in the Spirit, in the great mystery, joined together in beauty, in God's
harmony; Bringing all of God's children into one community -

And we're brothers and sisters in God's Love; In God's Love we are One.

God, we ask you for leaders with your wisdom blessed, and we pray you will join us
in our vision quest; God, we welcome you into our hearts as our guest -

And we're brothers and sisters in God's Love; In God's Love we are One.

Our worship has ended, our service now begins.

POSTLUDE

The Earth Prelude

(Adele)