

One: Glorious God, all creation comes from you and is a reflection of you.

All: The diversity and interconnectedness of the earth's many life forms bear testimony to your creative will and design.

One: Today will we ponder the miracle of trees, which provide food, shelter, and protection for creatures as you intended. Their roots break down hard rock to form soil and filter pollutants from runoff, while maintaining the air balance through photosynthesis. They stretch their branches out to you in worship and adoration.

All: You remind us that before human beings multiplied and spread throughout the earth, we were cocooned in your holy intent alongside all other creatures – each of us fearfully and wonderfully made, our very design and purpose glorifying you. Yet we live in ways that cause all kinds of harm to our human and nonhuman kin. We ask you to help us see where this is true, grieve the harm we've done, and transform the practices and systems that cause harm. Through your power that is both as gentle as a lamb and forceful enough to call worlds into being, speak to all hearts to change our ways.

Silent prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness and Healing

+ Gloria (Hymn 582) Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

WORD

Where the scriptures are read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ, the living Word, is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit also evokes our response. Through singing, affirmation, and prayer, with the help of God's Spirit, we discern Jesus Christ, receive Christ's grace, and resolve to follow Christ's way.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Genesis 2:4b-17 (NRSVUE)

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there God put the man whom God had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold, and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God you are very great.

All: You make the James River gush through the valleys and flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal; the otter quenches her thirst.

One: You cause the grass to grow for the deer, and vegetables for farmers.

All: The oaks and dogwoods of the Lord are watered abundantly, the eastern white cedars which God planted, in them the cardinals build their nests.

One: The blue herons have their home in the cypress trees.

The Blue Ridge Mountains are for the coyote; the ridges are a refuge for foxes.

All: You made the moon for all the seasons. The sun knows its time for setting.

One: You made the darkness, and it is night, when all of the creatures of the forest come out. The raccoons scavenge for their food, trusting in God's providence.

All: When the sun rises, nocturnal animals go back to sleep. Lord, you have done so many things. You made them all so wisely. The earth is full of your creations!

Revelation 22:1-2 (NRSVUE)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Sermon

Carla Pratt Keyes

+ Hymn 713 *Touch the Earth Lightly*

+ Affirmation of Faith

[adapted from the Iona Community]

We believe in God above us,

Maker and Sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of all people everywhere.

We believe in God beside us,

Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.

A man of compassion, he died forsaken; he descended into the earth to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb; he ascended into heaven to be everywhere present; and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and eternal life.

+ Somos Uno (Hymn 322)

We are one in Christ Jesus, all one body, all one spirit, all together.

Somos uno en Cristo, somos uno, somos uno, uno solo.

We share one God, one mighty Lord, one abiding faith, one binding love,

One single baptism, one Holy Comforter, the Holy Spirit, uniting all.

Prayers of the People

EUCCHARIST

Though we are not sharing the bread and cup today, we remember with thanksgiving (eukharistia) the grace (kharis) with which Jesus welcomes us to sit at his table, eat what will satisfy our deepest hungers, and feed others as we've been fed. We offer ourselves in response to Christ's wonderful offering of love.

Offering



Everyone is invited to place tithes, offerings, visitor cards, or any other communications to the Pastor or staff in the designated wall boxes beside each door at the back of the Sanctuary or signal an usher to bring you the offering plate.

Monetary gifts and pledges to GPPC may also be given online at <https://www.ginterparkpc.org/giving>, or by using the QR Code to the left.

*My Lord, he said unto me, Do you like my garden so fair?
 You may live in this garden if you keep the grasses green, And I'll return in the cool of the day.
 Now is the cool of the day, Now is the cool of the day;
 O this earth is a garden, the garden of my Lord, And he walks in his garden In the cool of the day.
 Then my Lord, he said unto me, Do you like my pastures of green?
 You may live in this garden if you will feed my lambs, And I'll return in the cool of the day.
 Then my Lord, he said unto me, Do you like my garden so free?
 You may live in this garden if you keep the people free, And I'll return in the cool of the day.*

Laura Ann Singh, soloist

+ Doxology (Hymn 607)

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
 praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.***

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

**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.**

SENDING

Our worship and service do not end with the postlude; we go forth to love and serve God in our daily lives.

+ Hymn 80 *You Shall Go Out with Joy* (sing three times)+ Charge and Blessing+ The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

+ Postlude

Unter der Linden grüne

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

ABOUT WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: GPPC's Pastor is Carla Pratt Keyes, and our Director of Music is Doug Brown. Today's lector is Ardyth Lohuis. The livestream operator is Bob Roybark. Owen Sharman is lead usher.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES AND LARGE PRINT HYMNS are available from an usher in the Narthex.

PLEASE TAKE THE PAPER BULLETIN YOU HAVE USED home for reference and/or recycling. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS about events in the life of GPPC are available through a weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to be added to the distribution, please contact Karen Mitscherlich at ginterparkpc@gmail.com.

MEND AND SHARE FAIR

April 25, 2026, 10:00am to 3:00pm, Yaupon Place and Union Presbyterian Seminary

Bring your broken, worn, and well-loved items to repair, donate gently-used goods, browse our free swap zones, and give new life to treasures while connecting with neighbors at Yaupon Place & Union Presbyterian Seminary. Explore hands-on workshops with basic repair skill demos, DIY maintenance tutorials, and sustainable living sessions. Stroll through community tables featuring local organizations, environmental groups, and sustainability resources, and grab a bite from our food trucks! To learn more here, go to: <https://www.upsem.edu/mend-share-fair/> or use the QR code on the right.

