



Emporia Presbyterian Church

Trinity Sunday
June 4, 2023



Emporia Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome to all who join with us in worship and fellowship. We affirm that there can be no exclusion within the body of Christ. If you need any assistance or have a prayer request, please email the pastor at pastorphyl.epc@gmail.com.

Our Faith Statement

Through the love and inspiration of Jesus Christ and each other, we reach out beyond ourselves to support others, continue to grow in faith, praise God, and celebrate His gifts.

* - You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

Bold – Please read aloud

WELCOME

A NOTE ON GATHERING FOR WORSHIP:

A reminder that whether we worship in or away from physical sanctuary: wherever we are, we are in sacred space when we set this time apart to be intentional, be in God's presence, and let our spirits connect with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name.

A NOTE FOR THOSE WISHING TO CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:

Bound together by the Spirit as we are, we can now share in online communion. To participate, you are invited to click the Communion Service link in your email, on the church website, or on the church Facebook page, so that we may all share Christ's feast together.

REFLECTION

*The mind can go in a thousand directions,
but on this beautiful path, I walk in peace.*

~ Thich Nhat Hanh

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

adapted from Psalms 8; 118:24

We gather to worship the God of all creation,
who crafted the seas and mountains,
earth and sky,
plants and animals,
all of creation,
and cares for each of us.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

*OPENING PRAYER

adapted from Psalms for Young Readers by Marie-Hélène Delval

People are so small next to you, God. You put the stars and the moon in the sky, and the birds in the air above the cows and horses in the fields, and the fish that swim in the seas. You created all the beauty in the world! Help us to look up and around and within, and see. Amen.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

adapted from Romans 8:26

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words.
Trusting in God's grace, let us offer our prayer of confession.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

adapted from The Ojibway Nation of Canada

Great Creator and Parent of all – Look at our brokenness. We know that in all creation only the human family has strayed away from the sacred way. We know that we are the ones who are divided, and we are the ones who must come back together to walk in the sacred way. Yet, we do not trust where Christ leads us, have entrenched ourselves in false loyalties, and place human desires above holy truths. Forgive us, we pray. Sacred One, teach us love, compassion, and honor, that we may heal the earth, heal one another, and follow Christ's sacred way.

Lord, hear our prayer in Jesus' name, and hear our personal confessions, too, lifted now from the silence of our hearts ...

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

adapted from Rev. Thom Shuman

We are no longer blown about in the winds of the world; we are grounded – yesterday, today, tomorrow – in God’s forgiveness, hope and love.

Today, tomorrow, forever – we can accept and share God’s peace with everyone we meet.

Friends, let us claim and proclaim the Good News.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*HYMN OF THE DAY

For the Beauty of the Earth
offered online by Toshi Takami & Takako Iyadomi

#14

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 1:1-2, 26-2:3

Psalm 8

SERMON

For the Birds

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

from The Celtic Caim

Imagine a circle round yourself. God is with you in the circle.

God our Creator, keep faith in and doubt out.

Image a circle round us as a group, with particular prayers for our siblings in

(please allow a moment for silent and listed prayers)

Jesus, Son of God, keep love in and fear out.

Imagine a circle round a person for whom you are concerned today, particularly mindful of

(please allow a moment for silent and listed prayers)

This week, we pray for

Brian Alexander, Catherine McIntyre, Clara Caldwell, Dan Hostetter, Diane Lang, Diane Sillaman, Diana Holdeman, Grace Short, Ine Sokari, Jim Edwards, Kiego Sokari, LeAnna Meats, Minnie Beth Park, Nancy Robohn, Rick Buck, Rick Edwards, Sharon Brickell, Tom Lorenz, Valerie Conrade, Wade Coester, The family and friends of Dorothy Grothusen,

Jake and Abigail Noll, and all the campers at Heartland Camps.

and our ecumenical family in Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini

and a prayer of joy for Kason Arthur Jones

Holy Spirit of God, keep hope in and despair out.

Imagine a circle round the planet earth – in all its beauty and tragedy. God is with us in the circle.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, our God, keep goodness in and evil out.

This we pray in the name of Christ, your beloved Son, who taught us also to say when we 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.

CALL TO OFFERING

from Matthew 6:21

Jesus said: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

We treasure all of the ways we can worship and serve together in Christ’s name.

You can pay your pledge or support special offerings by clicking GIVE on the church website, or you can mail your offering in to the church office.

With hearts attuned to God, let us return to our Lord, God’s tithes, our offerings, and our intentions to further Christ’s work in compassionate and creative ways.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

adapted from Hymn 747

Lord – We enjoy your great creation with gratitude and awe. Accept now our offerings and send us forth to serve and give, making all the earth a better place to live. May we do what we are meant to do, obeying your will, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*CHARGE & BLESSING

Scripture

Genesis 1:1-2 26-2:3

Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humans[♂] in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Psalm 8

Divine Majesty and Human Dignity: To the leader: according to The Gittith: A Psalm of David.

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK

MBF Meeting - Thursday, 4:45pm, Downtown Friendship Room

Monthly Mission – For the months of June and July we are collecting for the Salvation Army: cereal, pasta's, canned tuna or chicken, peanut butter, and jelly (please, no glass jars).

Food For All – Please donate food items at our West Campus in the Little Blessings Box located out by the street. Be mindful of the temperatures as you choose non-perishable items.

Intergenerational VBS – West Campus. Wednesdays: June 21, June 28, July 5, July 12. We will use *Illustrated Ministries: Reflections on Giving* to explore stories from all four Gospels. Contact Connie Jobe for information on how to join the fun or help volunteer with this growing summer tradition.

Adult Sunday School Class Curriculum - Curriculum for 2023 has been two very interesting and rewarding studies from *The Great Courses* collection of both the Old and the New Testament's, and will be available in the conference room throughout the summer for individual or small group use.

Understanding the Old Testament – A video lecture series and an accompanying course guidebook, From *The Great Courses* collection.

Understanding the New Testament ~ also a video lecture series with an accompanying course guidebook, From *The Great Courses* collection.

Session Meeting for the month of June - will be June 26, the 4th Monday. **A substitute Clerk of Session is needed** for June as Kathie will be away. If you would like to volunteer for this, please let the office know. 620-342-0375, officeassistant.epc@gmail.com.

Pastor Phyl will be away from June 5 - 9, but emergency pastoral care is in place. If you have a pastoral care concern while Pastor Phyl is away, please contact the church office at 342-0375, and the office staff can direct you to the appropriate clergy or congregational care team member.