

## Reflections

i thank You God for most this amazing  
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue dream of sky; and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,  
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth  
day of life and love and wings; and of the gay  
great happening illimitably earth

how should tasting touching hearing seeing  
breathing any - lifted from the no  
of all nothing - human merely being  
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and  
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

- e.e. cummings (1894-1962)

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Freely you have received, freely give.

- Matthew 10.8





# CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Please silence cell phones

August 16th, 2009  
11th Sunday after Pentecost  
Order of Worship

## Liturgical Definitions:

### Liturgy

*Liturgy is an order for public worship including singing, reading of scripture, and the Eucharist. The word, literally translated, means "the work of the people". Worship is something we do, not something to watch.*

## Greeting

Rhesa Storms

Leader: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*As this greeting is being said, worshippers who wish may mark themselves with the Sign of the Cross ☩*

## Call to Worship

Leader: Our help is in the name of our God, who made heaven and earth.

People: **Amen**

Leader: Sing and make music to the Lord with Thanksgiving. How good it is to celebrate God's presence and sing praise throughout each day!

People: **How good it is to sing praise and give honor to our God!**

Leader: Our God rebuilds the people of earth. The wandering ones are gathered together, the brokenhearted are healed, the hungry are fed, the prisoners are freed, the blind are given sight, the lonely are befriended.

People: **How good it is to sing praise and give honor to our God!**

Leader: All of nature sings aloud the goodness of God; clouds, rain, grass creatures great and small. Our God creates and sustains our world with God's ever-growing, never-ending love.

People: **How good it is to sing praise and give honor to our God!**

### Call to Worship

*The call to worship directs our attention to God, and prepares us to praise God.. Many weeks, we may come to the service with worries or concerns. The call to worship allows us to focus our attention on the nature of God, helping us to be less self-centered. In worship, we acknowledge God's presence in the world and in our lives.*

## Prayer of Adoration

### Psalm 148

Lindsay Travis

Praise the LORD!

Let all creation praise the name of the Lord.

Praise the LORD from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all heavenly beings!

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you planets and shining stars!

Praise him, highest heavens,

and you constellations of the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD.

Praise the LORD from the earth,

all you creatures of the deep, sky and land;

praise him fire and hail, snow and frost!

Praise him mountains and hills,

desert, river and plain,

fruit and flowering trees!

Leaders of the earth and all peoples;

young and old alike, praise him!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a Son for his people,

all who are close to him.

Praise the LORD!

## All Creatures of Our God and King

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All creatures of our God and King  
Lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

Refrain:

O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
Make music for thy Lord to hear,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
That giveth man both warmth and light.

Refrain

And all you men of tender heart,  
Forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing out! Alleluia!  
You who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on Him cast your care!

Refrain

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship Him in humbleness,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

Refrain

*Words: Francis of Assisi, circa 1225*

## Indescribable

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*chorus:*

Indescribable uncontainable  
You placed the stars in the sky  
And You know them by name  
You are amazing God  
All powerful untamable  
Awestruck we fall to our knees  
As we humbly proclaim  
You are amazing God

From the highest of heights  
To the depths of the sea  
Creation's revealing Your majesty  
From the colors of Fall  
To the fragrance of Spring  
Ev'ry creature unique  
In the song that it sings  
All exclaiming

*chorus*

Who has told ev'ry lightning bolt  
Where it should go  
Or seen heavenly storehouses  
Laden with snow  
Who imagined the sun  
And gives source to its light  
Yet conceals it to bring us  
The coolness of night  
None can fathom

*chorus*

*written by Laura Story*

*After the singing, Kindergarten to 5th grade children may go to their classes. The teachers meet them at the back of the sanctuary. Parents may attend with their children.*

## Prayer of Confession

Brent Storms

*During the prayer of confession, you are invited to kneel, as a sign of humility.*

**O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen:  
You place us in your creation, and you command us to care for it.  
Your works declare glory and splendor,  
And you call us to praise and reverence.**

**Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty,  
forgive us.**

**Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted,  
have mercy upon us.**

**Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we  
share this planet,  
grant us your peace.**

**Renew us in the waters of baptism,  
refresh us with the winds of your spirit,  
and sustain us with the bread of life.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, and for the sake  
of the new creation, we pray. Amen.**

## Declaration of Grace / Absolution

Our Savior died and rose again  
so that for all who live in him  
there is a new creation.  
Therefore I declare to you:  
your sins are forgiven,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord

**Amen. Send out your Spirit, O Lord.  
Renew the hearts of your people  
Renew the face of the earth.**

### Prayer of Confession

*...Reminds us that we are not better than others and that we are in need of grace. It strikes a blow against pride and humbles us before God as we are honest about our brokenness.*

### Absolution

*Confession of sin would bring only despair were it not for our knowledge of God's forgiveness and mercy. It is dangerous to dwell on ourselves and our sin if we do not also remember that God delights in forgiving us.*

## Amazing Grace

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Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

## Prayer of Community Life

**Rhesa Storms**

### **Prayer of Community Life**

*We bring before God our petitions and concerns, trusting in God's power to act in our lives, in our city, and in this world. We also pray, not just to get our way, but also to align our lives and desires with God's will.*

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. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

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 herb 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 he put the man whom he 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.

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."

from Genesis 1 & 2

## Eucharist

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All:**

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

## Silence

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
Now and for ever. Amen**

Leader: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*We invite all believers who have been baptized to share in the Lord's Supper. You may come forward, and stand or kneel in front of the table as you receive the elements.*

## Eucharist

*One of the many terms for the Lord's Supper. It comes from the Greek word meaning "thanksgiving." Even as Jesus gave thanks when he instituted the Lord's Supper, so do we give thanks that in this holy meal our Lord gives us his body and blood for forgiveness and life.*

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## Silence

*Silence is increasingly rare in our culture. In worship, it is important to reflect, to enjoy God, to feel the weight of truth, and to focus on the presence of the Lord.*

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## The Lord's Prayer

*This prayer of Jesus was given to his disciples as an example of how they should pray. As a prayer, the Lord's Prayer is similar to Jewish prayers. It begins with an address to God the Father, continues with petitions which ask God to act in a way which would achieve his purposes, and then has petitions which ask for God's help.*

The Bread and the Cup are given with these words:  
The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven (**Amen.**)  
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation (**Amen.**)

*Upon receiving communion, participants may make the Sign of the Cross ✠ as a mark of their faith in the redemptive work of Jesus.*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

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Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest,  
Blessed is he who comes in the name  
Hosanna in the highest  
In the name of the Lord  
In the name of the Lord

*written by Bill Blomquist*

**Offering**

**Jonathan Williams**

**Offering**

*Where we give our money is often an indication of where our priorities lie. We give to God to further ministries throughout*

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

The Doxology

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Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise Him, all creatures here below  
Praise Him above all heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!

*Thomas Ken (1637-1711)*

**Benediction**

*...A blessing pronounced at the conclusion of a worship service*

## Notes



*All song public domain or used with permission  
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*Earth Day Prayer of Confession by the Rev. Ken Carter [www.ghod.org](http://www.ghod.org)*