



GATHERING

***Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

***Hymn 664 Morning Has Broken BUNESSAN**

**1 Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!:**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation; praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!**

***Confession and Pardon**

**God of life, you created us in your image
to care for one another and for all creation.
Forgive us for turning away from you,
ignoring the needs of our neighbors
and the cries of the earth.**

**As the sun brings light and warmth to this earth,
make us signs of your grace,
through Christ, our light and life, we pray.**

silent prayer

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

***Hymn 582**

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

**1 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.**

**2 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.**

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Isaiah 55:10-13

- ¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,**
- ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**
- ¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**
- ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.**

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

***Hymn 341 O God, Show Mercy to Us THAXTED**

¹ O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace; and cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face, so that your way most holy on earth may soon be known, and unto every people your saving grace be shown.

Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing; in every land let praises and songs of gladness ring.

2 For you will judge the peoples in truth and righteousness, and on the earth all nations will your just rule confess. Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing.

Then earth in rich abundance to us its fruit will bring. The Lord our God will bless us; our God will blessing send, and all the earth will worship to its remotest end.

Scripture

Matthew 13:1-9

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.

2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow.

4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up.

5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.

6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away.

7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

9 If you have ears, hear!"

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**The Reverend Jason Ferris
"Good Soil"**

***Affirmation of Faith**

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proved

your love for us in Jesus Christ,

who lived and died and rose again.

You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God.

We worship you.

Hymn 851

WOZA NOMTHWALO WAKHO

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God

Come, bring your burdens to God;

come, bring your burdens to God;

come, bring your burdens to God,

for Jesus will never say no.

**Come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God,
for Jesus will never say no.**

Leader:

Come, bring your burdens; O come, bring your burdens;
O come, bring your burdens. Jesus will never say no.

Come, bring your burdens; O come, bring your burdens;
O come, bring your burdens.

Prayers of Intercession

Offerings

All Is Not Lost/The Brilliance

May the seeds of peace be scattered,
birthing trees whose shade gives us rest.

***Hymn 79**

TEMPLE OF PEACE

Light Dawns on a Weary World

**¹ Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.**

Refrain:

**The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with
singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.**

**2 Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. (refrain)**

**3 Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. (refrain)**

EUCHARIST

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**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.**

Breaking and Pouring

**Anthem: Natalie Hemby, Lori McKenna, Brandi Carlile
Crowded Table**

You can hold my hand when you need to let go.
I can be a mountain when you're feeling valley low.
I can be a streetlight showing you the way home,
if you hold my hand when you need to let go.
I want a house with a crowded table,
and a place by the fire for everyone.
Let us take on the world while we're young and able,
and bring us back together when the day is done.
If we want a garden, we're gonna have to sow the seed,
plant a little happiness, let the roots run deep.
If it's love that we give, then it's love that we reap.
If we want a garden, we're gonna have to sow the seeds.

SENDING

***Hymn 543**

GREEN TYLER

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

**¹ God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

- 2 Bind to myself the Name of Holy,
great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**
- 3 Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,
flashing of lightning, strength of wind,
depth of the sea to soil of planet:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**
- 4 Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**
- 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

***Benediction and Charge**

***Voluntary Gustav Holst (from *The Planets*)
Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity (excerpt)**



Assisting in Worship:

**Jason Ferris, Pastor, Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Richard DuBose, President, Montreat Conference Center
Hannah Garrity, liturgical artist**

Ann Laird Jones, Alec Peters, liturgy writers
Eric Wall, Conference Center Musician
Montreat Summer Singers; Michaela English, music intern;
MT Watkins, Katherine Jolly, John Newton, Gabriel Fox,
liturgists and musicians

**We celebrate the Lord's Supper in worship today.
This table is an open table, and the meal is offered to all.**

Communion today is served by intinction.

Bread is gluten-free, and cups contain grape juice.

Exit your pew to your left and come forward to the station in front of your section, receive the bread from the server and dip it in the cup. Return to your seat via the aisle on the right side of your pew.

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WELCOME TO SUMMER WORSHIP IN MONTREAT

All have a home here in the worship of the living God. In praise and prayer, joy and lament, scripture and preaching, arts and imagination, we come to be nourished by the sustaining grace and love of God offered to all people. Montreat is glad to welcome the congregations of the Montreat Presbyterian Church and the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church on Sunday mornings this summer.

THIS MORNING'S OFFERING supports the worship ministry of Montreat Conference Center. Offerings may be placed in the basket or made online at www.montreat.org/SWO. Members of Montreat Presbyterian Church and Black Mountain Presbyterian Church may designate their regular contributions to those congregations by using the printed envelopes available in the lobby (blue for Montreat Presbyterian Church, white for Black Mountain Presbyterian Church).

HEARING LOOP: Anderson Auditorium is equipped with a hearing loop. To use this technology, a hearing aid must be set to "T". For the best result, sit in sections closest to the walls.

USHERS: We are grateful to this morning's ushers from Montreat Presbyterian Church.

AFTER WORSHIP: You are invited to greet our preacher, the Rev. Jason Ferris, in front of the stage after worship. Rev. Ferris was installed as the 18th minister of Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, PA in 2011. He studied English at Davidson College, where he was awarded the Patricia Cornwell Creative Writing Scholarship. After working for public television in New York City, Jason graduated from Union Theological Seminary (NYC), where he received the Maxwell Award for promise of excellence in future ministry.

SUNDAY LUNCH is served at 11:45 a.m. in the Galax Dining Room of Assembly Inn. Lunch is \$17.00 for adults (12+) and \$8.50 for children (5-11). Please purchase your ticket at the Front Desk of the Inn.

HYMN SINGS are on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Inn Lobby. Tonight's leader is Aaron Price who is Director of Music and Worship Arts at Black Mountain Presbyterian. Known for his improvisational abilities, Aaron breathes new life into traditional hymns, especially at Hymn Sings. Aaron is also active in the Asheville Arts community, having lived in Asheville since 1997.

ARTS, MUSIC, and THEOLOGY Summer Lectures continue on Tuesday, July 9, featuring Dr. Kitty Fouche, “The Beauty of Fibonacci: It’s Everywhere.” Kitty is a Montreat resident and a retired mathematics education professor. She holds an undergrad degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and her masters and PhD from the University of Florida. She loves making mathematics fun, especially for her five grandchildren. Everyone is welcome. Convocation Hall, 7-8:15 p.m.

ARTIST’S STATEMENT

“Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away.” (Matthew 13:5-6, NRSVUE) Inspired by layouts in the St. John’s Bible illuminations, this artwork depicts Matthew’s parable of the Sower in a series of diagonal sections. Patterns of waves and beaches portray the locations of Jesus and the crowds. Each of the other spaces lifts up the details of the parable: wheat, birds, rocky ground, withering roots, and thorny branches. Connecting them all is gold leaf representing the presence of the Lord. Where is God located in this text? In our worship meeting for this Sunday, the team noted that the Sower casts the seed indiscriminately with the full confidence that within the seed there is everything needed to thrive. This expansive view was different than the way I’ve read this text over the years as a hierarchy of nurture environments, the thriving wheat proving that one way of nurture is the best way. Focusing on the Sowers' confidence in the seed opens a new way of seeing, of thinking, of imagining the fullness of the seed. This abundance in potential is reflected in the art today.

–Artist, Hannah Garrity