



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PENDLETON, OREGON – AUG. 20TH, 2023  
CHURCH IN THE WOODS



- **Bold words are spoken together**
- Children's Activity booklets are available.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

\*SONG GTG #15 *All Creatures of Our God and King* Vss. 1-3

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and all that dwells therein.

**We live in God's world, we are not alone.**

We share this life with the heavens and the earth,  
**with the waters and the land, with trees and grasses,  
with fish, birds, and animals, with creatures of every form,**  
and with all our brothers and sisters.

**God saw all that was made, and behold, it was very good.**

\*SONG GTG #15 *All Creatures of Our God and King* Vss. 4-6

\*SONG GTG #14 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

\*SONG GTG #19 *God of Great and God of Small*

CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, in your gracious presence, we confess our sins and the sin of this world.**

**Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world.**

**The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation.**

**We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us.**

**Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

Having received the peace of Christ, let us share that peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you.**

## ANTHEM

*God of Wonders*

Peter Fargo

## PRAYER FOR GOD'S WISDOM

## GOSPEL LESSON

*John 3:16-17*

## SERMON

Cosmos

Rev. Keith Hudson

\*SONG GTG #626 *As the Deer 2x*

\*SONG GTG #26 *Earth and All Stars!*

\*SONG SOH #131 *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*

STATEMENT OF FAITH: From *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.**

**Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

**We deserve God's condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.**

**In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.**

**Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.**

**Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.**

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.**

**With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death**

**can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, creator of the universe,

Fill us with your love for the creation, for the natural world around us, for the earth from which we come and to which we will return. Awake in us energy to work for your world; let us never fall into complacency, ignorance, or being overwhelmed by the task before us. Help us to restore, remake, renew. Lord, in Your Mercy

**Hear our Prayer.**

Jesus, who raised the dead to life,  
Help us to find ways to renew what we have broken, damaged and destroyed:  
Where we have taken too much water, polluted the air, poured plastic into the sea,  
cut down the forests and soured fertile soils. Help all those who work to find  
solutions to damage and decay; give hope to those who are today working for a  
greener future. Lord, in Your Mercy **Hear our Prayer.**

Spirit of the Living God,  
At the beginning you moved over the face of the waters. You brought life into  
being, the teeming life that finds its way through earth and sea and air, that makes  
its home around us, everywhere. You know how living things flourish and grow,  
how they co-exist; how they feed and breed and change. Help us to understand  
those delicate relationships, value them, and keep them from destruction. Lord, in  
Your Mercy **Hear our Prayer.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Creator 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.**

#### OFFERING

Today's Offering will go to support the mission of Westminster Woods

\*DOXOLOGY GTG #607

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise Christ all people here below;*

*Praise Holy Spirit evermore;*

*Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen*

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*SENDING HYMN: GTG #300 *We Are One in the Spirit*

\*BLESSING, BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

\*Indicates stand in body or spirit