

**HYMN:** *How great thou art*

**OPENING PRAYER:**

*Heavenly Father,*

*Give us eyes to see your Creation as you see it*

*and plant in our hearts the hope of the promise of a new heaven and new earth.*

*Amen*

**Genesis 1.1-2.3**

Leader     <sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Voice 1    <sup>3</sup> And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.”

Leader     And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Voice 2    <sup>6</sup> And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” <sup>7</sup> So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the vault “sky.”

Leader     And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

Voice 1    <sup>9</sup> And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.”

Leader     And God saw that it was good.

Voice 1    <sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds.

Leader     And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

Voice 2 <sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness.

Leader And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

Voice 1 <sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind.

Leader And God saw that it was good.

Voice 1 <sup>22</sup> God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.”

Leader <sup>23</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

Voice 2 <sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds.

Leader And God saw that it was good.

Voice 2 <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” <sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

- Voice 1     <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”
- <sup>29</sup> Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground— everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.
- Leader       <sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.
- Voice 2     <sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.
- <sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.
- Leader       <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

**HYMN:** *All for your praise* (by Martyn Hamm - see <http://home2.btconnect.com/merlinmedia/praise/page5.html>)

**John 1:1-5,9-14**

**Philippians 2: 1-11** (Leader)

**HYMN:** *At the name of Jesus*

**Psalms 78:1-6**

**Matthew 13:24-30,34-43** (Leader)

**HYMN:** *In Christ alone*

**Romans 8:18-25 [J.B.Phillips] (Leader)**

**HYMN:** *Knowing you*

**Isaiah 65:17-25**

**Revelation 21:1-5 (Leader)**

**HYMN:** *Thine be the glory*

**Isaiah 25:1,6-9 (Leader with congregational response)**

25 LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you and praise your name,

for in perfect faithfulness

you have done wonderful things,

things planned long ago.

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare  
a feast of rich food for all peoples,

a banquet of aged wine—

the best of meats and the finest of wines.

<sup>7</sup> On this mountain he will destroy

the shroud that enfolds all peoples,  
the sheet that covers all nations;

<sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears  
from all faces;

he will remove his people's disgrace  
from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> In that day they will say,

“Surely this is our God;  
we trusted in him, and he saved us.  
This is the LORD, we trusted in him;  
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

**HYMN:** *Great is thy faithfulness*

## **BLESSING**