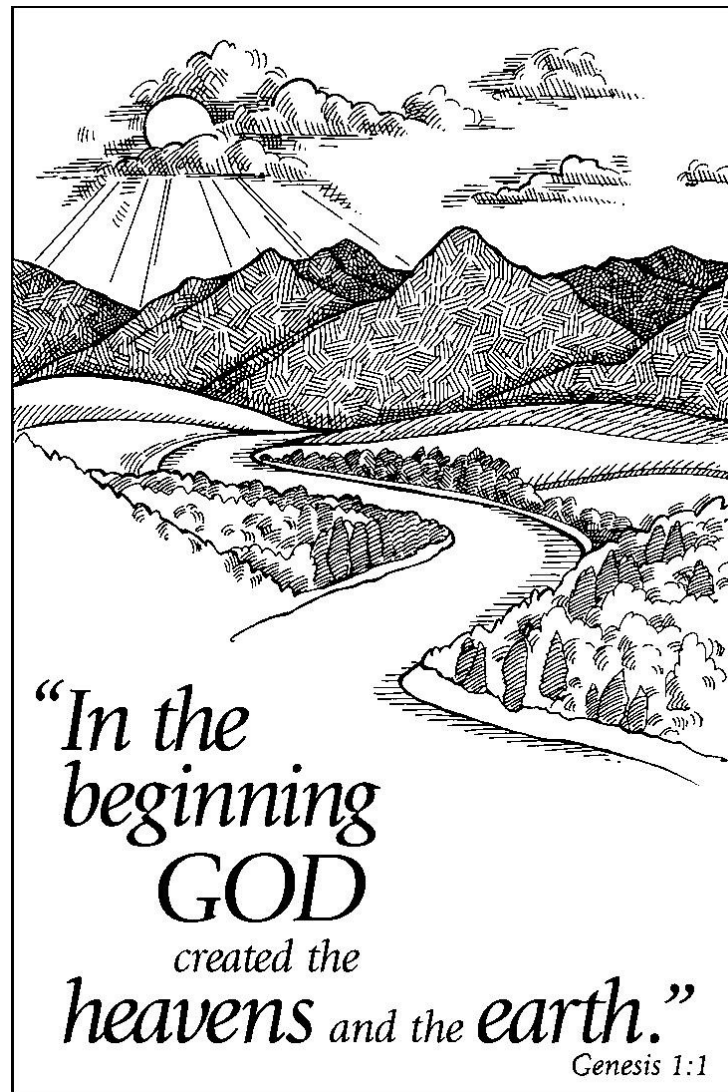


**First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit**  
**In the Beginning: Genesis in Scripture, Prayer and Song**



**August 20, 2017**

Hymn Sing (9:45 a.m.)

Welcome and Introduction

Prelude

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

arr. Kolander

**Creation**

Call to Worship:

Genesis 1:1-5

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.*

Let us worship God, the creator of heaven and earth!

**\* Hymn: At the Dawn of Your Creation**

At the dawn of your creation, God, you spoke, "Let there be light!"  
You divided earth from heaven, you created day and night.  
You made sunbeams dance with shadows, you created energy!  
Peaceful evenings, bright tomorrows, all began with "Let there be..."

By your word, you formed creation: dry land, water, ocean breeze.  
Soon there burst forth vegetation — plants with fruit, majestic trees.  
Rain and snow and changing seasons, creatures filling land and sea —  
God, your very good creation all began with "Let there be..."

When you made us as your children, sending us throughout your lands,  
You commanded, "Have dominion — care for earth; it's in your hands."  
Yet we hurt this world you've given; we harm earth and sky and sea.  
We forget it's your creation — you, who once said "Let there be..."

At this joyful celebration, may we hear your word anew:  
May we care for your creation, knowing it's a trust from you.  
Just as daily there's a dawning, bringing light to all we see,  
So we daily hear your calling — you, who once said, "Let there be..."

## Hymn: The Earth is the Lord's

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."  
Creation reminds us, O God, of your love.  
By grace we are learning, as year leads to year,  
We're called to be stewards, your caretakers here.

Your rainforests nurture the world that we share.  
Your wetlands give animals shelter and care.  
Your coral reefs cradle the life of the sea.  
You've shown us, in love, what your good world can be.

Too often, O God, we abuse your good earth.  
We fail to remember its beauty and worth.  
We take from creation much more than we need,  
We threaten your world through indifference and greed.

May we be good stewards of all that you give,  
Protecting creation wherever we live.  
May we be a church that renews and restores  
And lovingly cares for this earth that is yours.

### Sabbath

Reader: The creation of Sabbath

Genesis 2:2-3

## Hymn: O God, You Made the Sabbath Day

O God, you made the Sabbath day, / Your gift, your law, your healing way.  
You also made, within each heart / A longing for this day apart.

### Sin

Call to Confession

\* Sung Prayer of Confession: **One Person's Sin Changed Every Life**

One person's sin changed every life / When Adam strayed, we too were lost.  
The world soon filled with death and strife / And every person bears the cost.

Not satisfied with what you gave / Your people sought to be like you.  
Those early humans disobeyed / Their story is our story, too.

(Silent Prayer)

\* Assurance of Forgiveness: **One Person's Sin Changed Every Life**  
Then, God, in love you sent your Son / For as in Adam we did fall,  
So through the faithfulness of One / Salvation was your gift to all.

O God, we've seen what death can do / And now with joy we know rebirth.  
In Jesus Christ, you make us new / And give your life for all the earth.

\* Passing the Peace

### Promise

Reading: Noah and the Ark

Genesis 9:13,15a

A Time With Children

Vocal Ensemble: **Shades of Purple, Shades of Blue**

Prayer (Unison)

*Creator God, we hear the biblical story of an environmental disaster,  
brought on by the sins of people and nations.*

*May it remind us that our actions have consequences.*

*When we sin against you and harm your beautiful creation,  
we threaten the planet you have placed in our care.*

*Yet the rainbow reminds us of your promise.*

*You want what is best for the world.*

*Since you love this world so much, help us to love it, too.*

*Help us to take care of what you have made. Amen.*

### Call

Reading: The Call of Abram

## Hymn: Abraham Journeyed to a New Country

Abraham journeyed to a new country / Sarah went with him, journeying too.  
Slaves down in Egypt fled Pharaoh's army / Ruth left the home and people she knew.

Mary and Joseph feared Herod's order / Soldiers were coming! They had to flee.  
Taking young Jesus, they crossed the border. / So was our Lord a young refugee.

Some heard the promise, God's hand would bless them!

Some fled from hunger, famine and pain.

Some left a place where others oppressed them / All trusted God and started again.

Prayer for Illumination

**Stargazing**

Reading: The Hope of Abraham and Sarah  
Vocal Ensemble: **Old Abram Was Blest**

Genesis 15:5-6

**Sacrifice**

Reading: What does God require of us?  
Vocal Ensemble: **When Abraham Went Up**

from Genesis 22

**Blessing**

Reader: The challenges of families

Hymn: **Old Isaac Asked His Nearby Son**

“Old Isaac asked his nearby son, / “What is your name? I’m poor in sight.”  
He sought to bless the elder one. / “Which one are you?” he asked that night.

Then Jacob said, “I’m Esau here,” / As he stood there in his disguise.  
The blessing he would hold so dear / Began that night with tricks and lies.

With Esau angry, Jacob fled. / Soon Rachel gladly said, “I do.”  
Then Jacob toiled and earned his bread, / And soon his wealth and holdings grew.

A strange man met him late one night. / They wrestled, struggling all night long,  
The man spoke at the morning light, / “You’ve wrestled God and you have won.”

Reading: Remember the name?

Hymn: **Old Isaac Asked His Nearby Son** (continued):

The stranger asked him, “What’s your name?” / This time the name he spoke was true.  
Yet nothing would remain the same / For in that struggling time, he grew.

Then Jacob went to Esau’s land / With Esau he was reconciled.  
In all his life, he saw God’s hand / And he was blessed to be God’s child.

**Everyone**

Reader: The Bible stories are for everybody

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Hymn: **O God of Truth and Glory**

O God of truth and glory, in listening to your Word,  
We sometimes miss the story of voices seldom heard.  
Forgive our poor attention to women who were there—  
To those we hardly mention in scripture, hymn or prayer.

For Eve was Adam’s partner, and Noah had a wife.  
And Sarah laughed in wonder at how you changed her life.  
Rebekah, strong and forceful, knew just what she would do.  
And Rachel was resourceful, and Dinah mattered, too.

Young Miriam saved her brother; she found the boy a home.  
And so the Pharaoh’s daughter raised Moses as her own.  
You called on countless women to work and serve and pray.  
Lord, may we, too, be listening when you call us today.

**Help**

Offering  
Offertory “God Who Spun the Earthly Planets” arr. Powell  
\* Doxology

\* **Prayer of Thanksgiving: “Abraham Journeyed”** (continued):

Did they know hardship? Did they know danger?  
Who shared a home or gave them some bread?  
Who reached a hand to welcome the stranger?  
Who saw their fear and gave hope instead?

God, our own families came here from far lands;  
We have been strangers, "aliens" too.  
May we reach out and offer a welcome  
As we have all been welcomed by you.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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**Bread**

Reading: Joseph and his brothers

Genesis 37:3-11

**Vocal Ensemble: Joseph Was His Father's Favorite**

\* Hymn **We're Children of God**

We're children of God; we're welcomed and claimed.  
We're given new birth, renewed and renamed.  
The world may not know yet to whom we belong,  
But we are God's children and love is our song.

We're children of God who takes away sin.  
In Christ we abide; our life is in him.  
We offer forgiveness, seek justice and peace,  
And reach out to others, that love may increase.

We're children of God and so our delight  
Is living the life that's good in God's sight.  
One day we'll be like him, transformed from above  
To sing for eternity God's song of love.

\* Benediction and Blessing

\* Postlude "Earth and All Stars" arr. Wold

*The flowers this morning have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Lucille Jean Heckman by her sister, Gayle Hamilton.*

**Participants**

Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Guest Musician	Jeff Leas
Welcomer	Janet Dobson
Ushers	Bill Farrell, Greg Matthews
Storytellers	Jeff Leas, Grace Farrell, Alan Baker, Frank Jones, Connie Weiss, John Weiss, Nancy Post



*We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.*

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[www.carolynshymns.com](http://www.carolynshymns.com)

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette is the author of [\*Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor\*](#) (Discipleship Resources/Upper Room Books) and [\*Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship\*](#) (Geneva Press) and the co-pastor of Limestone Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware. A complete list of her 250+ hymns can be found at [www.carolynshymns.com](http://www.carolynshymns.com)