GREETING
Pastor: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Congregation: And, also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER
All: O God, we ask you to pour out your spirit on us. Help us serve you more cheerfully so we can serve our brothers and sisters. Cast out everything which breaks or hinders the growing bonds of love between us. Give us the determination to make progress so that all our lives we may seek after your holy and perfect will. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN
How Great Thou Art
Bulletin, Page 7

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
All: Creator God, we confess that we have broken away from your intention for us. We have abused one another and all you’ve created. We have failed to take our role as creation’s caregivers seriously. We have consumed without cultivating. We have burned and mined and razed and cleared out, rather than using only what we need, and making sure there is enough for other human beings as well as other creatures. We confess that we have failed to hold our leaders accountable and we have failed to make your creation a priority in choosing our leadership. Forgive us and hold us accountable. Call us back to understanding that the way we care for the earth reflects the way we care for you, just as the way we are for one another reflects our love for you. In the name of our Savior, Jesus, who redeems us and calls us to repentance, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS
Pastor: Rejoice! God continually shows us another way. God's mercy is as wide as the ocean. God's desire to forgive is as strong as the mighty wind. So, let your hearts receive the outpouring of God's love, in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit.
All: Hallelujah! AMEN!

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

HEBREW READING - Genesis 1:1-2:4a (The Message)

1-2 First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don’t see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God’s Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.

3-5 God spoke: “Light!”
And light appeared.
God saw that light was good
and separated light from dark.
God named the light Day,
he named the dark Night.
It was evening, it was morning—
Day One.
6-8 God spoke: “Sky! In the middle of the waters; separate water from water!”
God made sky.
He separated the water under sky from the water above sky.
And there it was:
he named sky the Heavens;
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Two.

9-10 God spoke: “Separate!
Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into one place;
Land, appear!”
And there it was.
God named the land Earth.
He named the pooled water Ocean.
God saw that it was good.

11-13 God spoke: “Earth, green up! Grow all varieties of seed-bearing plants,
Every sort of fruit-bearing tree.”
And there it was.
Earth produced green seed-bearing plants, all varieties,
And fruit-bearing trees of all sorts.
God saw that it was good.
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Three.

Shine in Heaven’s sky!
Separate Day from Night.
Mark seasons and days and years,
Lights in Heaven’s sky to give light to Earth.”
And there it was.

16-19 God made two big lights, the larger to take charge of Day,
The smaller to be in charge of Night; and he made the stars.
God placed them in the heavenly sky to light up Earth
And oversee Day and Night, to separate light and dark.
God saw that it was good.
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Four.

20-23 God spoke: “Swarm, Ocean, with fish and all sea life!
Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!”
God created the huge whales,
   all the swarm of life in the waters,
And every kind and species of flying birds.
   God saw that it was good.
God blessed them: “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Ocean!
   Birds, reproduce on Earth!”
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Five.

24-25 God spoke: “Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind:
cattle and reptiles and wild animals—all kinds.”
And there it was:
   wild animals of every kind,
Cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug.
   God saw that it was good.

26-28 God spoke: “Let us make human beings in our image, make them
   reflecting our nature
So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea,
   the birds in the air, the cattle,
And, yes, Earth itself,
   and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.”
God created human beings;
   he created them godlike,
Reflecting God’s nature.
   He created them male and female.
God blessed them:
   “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!
Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,
   for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.”

29-30 Then God said, “I’ve given you
   every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth
And every kind of fruit-bearing tree,
   given them to you for food.
To all animals and all birds,
   everything that moves and breathes,
I give whatever grows out of the ground for food.”
   And there it was.

31 God looked over everything he had made;
   it was so good, so very good!
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Six.

2 Heaven and Earth were finished,
   down to the last detail.

2-4 By the seventh day
   God had finished his work.
On the seventh day
he rested from all his work.
God blessed the seventh day.
He made it a Holy Day
Because on that day he rested from his work,
all the creating God had done.

This is the story of how it all started,
of Heaven and Earth when they were created.

EPISTLE READING - 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
11 Finally, brothers and sisters, good-bye. Put things in order, respond to my encouragement, be in harmony with each other, and live in peace—and the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Say hello to each other with a holy kiss. All of God’s people say hello to you.

13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 28:16-20 (New Revised Standard Version)
16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

SERMON
Rev. Laura C. Bair

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER
All:  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.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY PRAYER
All:  We give thanks, O God, for all that you have given us. Pour out your blessing on these tithes and offerings, that they might be a source of blessing in this church, in our community, and in your world. Through this act of sharing, may we counter fear with hope and transform scarcity through generosity. We pray through the Triune God. Amen.

HYMN
God of Change and Glory

CLOSING PRAYER
All:  Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Send us out to live lives that glorify you. Help us to be people of peace. Empower us to recognize your call - in our families, in our communities, in our places of work, in our churches, and in our world. Amen.

BENEDICTION
1 God of change and glory, God of time and space,
2 God of many colors, God of many signs,
3 Fresh-ness of the morn-ing, new-ness of each night,

when we fear the fu-ture, give to us your grace,
you have made us dif-ferent, bless-ing man-y kinds,
you are still cre-at-ing end-less love and light.

In the midst of chang-ing ways give us still the grace to praise.
As the old ways dis-ap-pear, let your love cast out our fear.
This we see, as shad-ows part, man-y gifts from one great heart.

Refrain
Man-y gifts, one Spir-it, one love known in man-y ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
one Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God known in many ways,
hallowing our days. For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!
How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling birds sing sweetly in the trees; When I look down from lofty mountain die, I scarce can take it in; That on the cross, my burden gladly home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the thunder, thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed, grandeur And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art!

3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, Sent him to bear-ing, He bled and died to take away my sin; Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art!

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me Refrain