

**March 3, 2024 – AM – online
Bonni – Belle Pickard**

==ORDER OF SERVICE==

Call to worship

Immortal, invisible, God only wise (**StF 55**)

Psalm 19:1-6, 7-14 (paraphrase) –

Prayer

God beyond all dreams – **StF 496**

John 2:13-22

Heaven Shall Not Wait – **StF 701**

Meditation – considering what God has in mind...

Exodus 20:1-17 (The Ten Commandments)

Jesus Christ is waiting – **StF 251,**

Prayers

O Thou who camest from above – **StF 564**

Psalm 19:1–6 Scientific study and Interdependence

“The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament showeth God’s handiwork...”
The whole earth is God’s textbook.
From the edges of the atmosphere
to the core of the planet,
the wonders of the world expand our understanding.
Rocks have no words, nor do cells have syllables,
yet their message can be read anywhere.
Even the fiery stars, racing through space,
yield their secrets to those whose minds are open to the mystery of God’s universe.
An underlying harmony,
a delicate equilibrium built on the value of every thing,
binds together past, present, and future.
There are no exceptions.
No one is above the universal law of interdependence.
Nothing stands alone.
Life dies and becomes new life
spirit and flesh are one.
My life is inextricably linked to yours,
and our common survival is tied to the trees and insects.
This is the beginning of wisdom.
It is better than wealth, more valuable than possessions.
Awareness of it will change you forever.
But we are too often deaf;
We close our ears to the voices of the winds and waves,
to the insights of the rocks and the plants.
God, keep us from thinking we know it all –
An assembly of facts does not equal truth.
Human minds cannot encompass eternity.
Keep us always open to wonder, to beauty and to mystery,
oh greatest of mysteries.

From Everyday Psalms by James Taylor.

Creator God, when we stop our busy-ness and take a look around us,
We see all that you have created – and all that you have called, “good”.
Creator God, we look at the ways you have created and sustained life,
And we wonder at the love with which you create each individually –
Each sunrise, each sunset, each blossoming of the trees in spring,
Each fingerprint, each voice, each heartbeat...
Creator God, we recognise your goodness and order in creation –
We see how everything is connected – to you and to everything else!
Sometimes we’ve viewed your creation with arrogance
– to force it to accommodate us.
Other times we’ve tried to listen with humility
– to hear how you need us to work with you
Forgive us when we think we know better than you.
Help us learn again from you what is good and right and true.
And not just to “know” but to “do” the things
That will ensure there is care and justice for all your creation. Amen.

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves,
and the money changers seated at their tables.

Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep
and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changer and
overturned their tables.

He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here!
Stop making my Father's house a market place!"

His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will
consume me."

The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six
years,

and will you raise it up in three days?"

But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said
this,

and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;
you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol,
whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above,
or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not bow down to them or worship them;
for I the LORD your God am a jealous God,
punishing children for the iniquity of parents,
to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,
but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation
of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God,
for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.
For six days you shall labour and do all your work.
But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God;
you shall not do any work— you, your son or your daughter,
your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.
For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,
but rested the seventh day;
therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother,
so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house;
you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey,
or anything that belongs to your neighbour.