Welcome

Prelude

We Asked Our Youth and Young Adults... A video montage

The Call

“True belonging is the spiritual practice of believing in and belonging to yourself so deeply that you can share your most authentic self with the world and find sacredness in both being a part of something and standing alone in the wilderness. True belonging does not require you to change who you are; it requires you to be who you are.”
Brene Brown, Braving the Wilderness

Gathering Song “Take My Life, God, Let It Be” Page 4

Gathering Prayer
God of Grace, you call us to be different from the world, but the world is seductive, and so we come here to be strengthened.
God of Vision, you hold before us an alternate way of life, different priorities, different loyalties, different values.
But we know the world is not only seductive, it's powerful, and so we are drawn in to following its priorities, accepting its values, showing loyalty to its gods. God who blesses those who are peace-filled and true to themselves, forgive us when we lose sight of who we are, when we stray from being who you created us to be.

...moment of silence...

God is gracious and God offers blessings.

**Rejoice and be glad!**

God calls us to authentic life in the world, God invites us to explore God's holy vision.

We are called, we are forgiven, we are blessed.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

**Children’s Time with Ms. Judy**

**Scripture Reading I**

Romans 12:1-2 (The Voice)

My siblings, in light of all I have shared with you about God’s mercies, I urge you to offer your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice to God, a sacred offering that brings God pleasure; this is your reasonable, essential worship. Do not allow this world to mold you in its own image. Instead, be transformed from the inside out by renewing your mind. As a result, you will be able to discern what God wills and whatever God finds good, pleasing, and complete.

**Music for Reflection**

**Scripture Reading II**

Romans 12:9-18 (The Voice)

Love others well, and don’t hide behind a mask; love authentically. Despise evil; pursue what is good as if your life depends on it. Live in true devotion to one another, loving each other as siblings. Be first to honor others by putting them first. Do not slack in your faithfulness and hard work. Let your spirit be on fire, bubbling up and boiling over, as you serve the Lord. Do not forget to rejoice, for hope is always just around the corner. Hold up through the hard times that are coming, and devote yourselves to prayer. Share what you have with the saints, so they lack nothing; take every opportunity to open your life and home to others. If people mistreat or malign you, bless them. Always speak blessings, not curses. If some have cause to celebrate, join in the celebration. And if others are weeping, join in that as well. Work toward unity, and live in harmony with one another. Avoid thinking you are better than others or wiser than the rest; instead, embrace common people and ordinary tasks. Do not retaliate with evil, regardless of the evil brought against you.
Try to do what is good and right and honorable as agreed upon by all people. If it is within your power, make peace with all people.

**Message**

“An Offering, Unwrapped”

**Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer**

*Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kindom 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 kindom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

**Song of Response**

“True Colors”
Amelia Lloyd, vocalist | Nick Lloyd, trumpet

**Moment for Mission**

Stewardship 2021: Love of Earth  Russ Kuttenkuler

**Thanksgiving to God**

**Blessing and Commissioning**

**Sending Forth Song**

“Song of the Soul” vv. 1-3  Page 5

**Sources:**


Gathering Prayer is adapted from Rev Gord on his blog, Worship Offerings. [http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/](http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/)
Take My Life, God, Let It Be

Rom. 12:1

1 Take my life, God, let it be con-se-crated faith-fully.
2 Take my spir-it, let it move at the im-pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov-ing over-flow.

Take my mo-ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my in-tel-lect and use all its pow -ers as you choose.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell-ing place.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ’s com-mu-ni-ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.
Justin H. Knecht, 1797
Alternate tune: HENDON

4
Song of the Soul

Cris Williamson

1-4 "Love of my life," I am crying; I am not dying; I am dancing

2 What do you do for your living Are you giving, giving shelter?

3 Come to your life like a warrior; nothin' will bore yer; You can be happy

D G D Am7 D Am7 D

Dancing along in the madness; there is no sadness, only a song of the soul. And we'll sing this song; why don't you sing along?

Follow your heart; love will find you; truth will unbind you; sing out a song of the soul. And we can sing for a long, long time. Why don't you

Let in the light; it will heal you; And you can feel you sing out a song of the soul. And we can sing for a long, long time.

D D/A D D7 D7/E D7/F# G C G

And we can sing for a long, long time.

D D7 G

1-3

And we can sing for a long, long time.

4 Bm Em7 G Am D D7 G Bm Cmaj7 Am9 D7

And we can sing for a long, long time.
Beloved, Love Creation.

“We may think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it’s our garden that is really nurturing us.” - Jenny Uglov

From the beginning of the creation narrative in the Bible, we learn about the design of stewardship. The story of Adam and Eve in the garden portrays an understanding of how we must care for creation—must tend the garden. The original Hebrew used the words “till” and “keep” to describe our responsibility for preserving the Earth for all generations. This understanding is the foundation of stewardship in any form. God’s creation was made for our own sake. By treating it with love and care, we are fed—literally and spiritually.

Kirkwood UCC has attempted for many years to reduce waste that overloads our landfills. We traded styrofoam cups for glass cups for coffee hour, welcoming the chore of loading a dishwasher to avoid using a nondegradable product. Every breakfast team that cooked for our neighbors in the City hauled its packaging back to church to recycle.

As we think about the stewards God is calling us to be, how can we do more to tend the garden given to us? How can we ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the blessings of God’s Creation? May we find ways to give, in resources and effort, to ensure that all may share its blessings.

Beloved, love creation.