

WORSHIP WITH CAPITOL HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
September 6, 2026
In the Season of Creation, Labor Day Weekend

Let the waters of justice flow down like a river . . .



*with sufficient, clean water on earth for all,
with vibrant soil and abundant plants,
and refuge from floods;
make righteousness an ever flowing stream is our prayer in our worship.*

“We still talk in terms of “conquest”-whether it be of the insect world or of the mysterious world of space. We still have not become mature enough to see ourselves as a very tiny part of a vast and incredible universe, a universe that is distinguished above all else by a mysterious and wonderful unity that we flout at our peril.” Rachel Carson

“Maybe this is where the teaching becomes most urgent for us. We know the climate is changing. We know the Himalayas are getting warmer. Millions of people live downstream from glaciers and mountains that are becoming less stable. Yet, countries that share these mountains and rivers are still caught up in political rivalries that make it hard to work together.

“Water does not care about those divisions.

“A flood that starts on one side of a border does not stop to show documents before crossing over.

“Maybe the mountains are reminding us of something our politics often forgets: we already belong to each other.”
Rev. Cameron Trimble

*We gather in the light of our lamp lit blue in prayer for those struggling with aids and HIV infection,
of our candle lit amid barbed wire in concern for all bearing the load of oppression;
a red flower is placed on our table with prayer for those living with cancer,
and we light a candle to center in our Maker's peace . . .*

The Yellowstone River



A meditation in song - I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER (Hymn 368)

**I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river
in-a my soul. repeat**

**I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain
in-a my soul. repeat**

**I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean
in-a my soul. repeat**

The word of our Lord - Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me . . . Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Let us pray - Dear God of all creation; parent of our human life on earth in Whose image we were born; Sibling Who calls us friends; we seek Your just governance for all on the earth; we long for refuge in Your will of love; we seek an earth beauty that reflects heaven's realm. Give all, we pray, the bread of life and refuge amid difficulties and uncertainties. Forgive us for harmful neglect and foolishly driven limited personal interest as we forgive in Your way and lead us into that way of being human that builds across boundaries collaborations for a greater good, for we know such grace for life is in You and abiding with You always.

Help us serve Your mercy, we pray, amen.

Let's share a Psalm - When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy,
Those who go weeping, bearing the seed of sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves. *Psalms 126*

JOYFUL, JOYFUL (Hymn 464)
Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You, Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You, Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You, Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain Praising You eternally!

Always giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother, Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us, Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.

The guidance of Jesus as found in the Sermon on the Mount - Matthew 5:21-26, 38-48
A World Made Whole, Our Vocation

Returning to the Table of Bread of Life, Broken for All

FOR EVERYONE BORN, A PLACE AT THE TABLE
BY SHIRLEY ERENA MURRAY

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,
Chorus - and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and
peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair, *chorus*

For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong, *chorus*

For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live, *chorus*

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free, *chorus*

Prayerfully, our celebrations, concerns, opportunities, and reflections . . .
Let us pray - God of grace, Bread of life, thank You for the gifts enabling our lives and for all who
share in the giving. Bless and keep all we pray in Your healing work, the beauty of peace, and free
love of life. May we be servants, enablers of that world we see through You, amen.

O God, You Give Us Grapes and Grain

(ELLACOMBE *the tune*, see "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" Hymn 288)

O God, you give us grapes and grain; you give us salt and oil.
You bless us with refreshing rain and sun — and rich, dark soil.
And so your care for all these things means we can be well-fed.
Creation praises you and sings — as you give wine and bread.

You sent us Christ, who walked the fields and saw your love abound;
he spoke of trees and crops and yields, and growth beneath the ground.
He spoke of ordinary things like sheep and mustard seeds,
and chicks beneath their mothers' wings; Christ taught your love through these.

One day at table, Jesus prayed, and blessed the bread and wine.
These things of earth that you had made became your gift, your sign:
You love the world! You sent your Son! And now, through wine and bread,
our Lord is present once again and so your church is fed.

Your Spirit moves across the earth — the earth that you made good.
May we see your creation's worth and love it as we should.
As we now share the bread and wine, as Christ is here anew,
God, give us strength to go and care for all the earth with you.
Text from Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, a member of Presbyterians for Earth Care



*Our closing - Let us go to traverse the trail of beauty;
to see and bless the wonders of our world;
to live openly, graciously, freely with others in a large collaboration
in the Spirit and way of Jesus,
to seek justice, embrace kindness and live humbly so others may thrive with us;
let us be God's gift of peace, amen.*