



First Presbyterian
Church *of* Dunedin

September 13, 2026

Celebration

of God's love, justice, and peace in creation, in others and in ourselves.

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Sentences

Wayne Ziskal, Liturgist

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

All that is within me, bless God's name!

Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sin!

Bless the Lord, who heals diseases.

Bless the Lord, who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy!

All that is within me, bless God's name!

***Hymn 5 – “God the Sculptor of the Mountains”**

**The Congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.*

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God,

our lives do not always reflect your transforming power.

You are gracious, but we cling to judgment.

You are kind, but we can be cruel.

You are forgiving,

but we nurse grudges and old wounds.

Forgive us, O God.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit,

and make us new through Christ, your Son and our Savior.

(pause for silent personal confession)

Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***Response (Hymn 447)**

**We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

Discovery

of God's love, justice, and peace in creation, in others and in ourselves.

Prayer for Understanding

Please pray with me:

**God of wisdom, prepare our hearts and minds to receive your Word.
Where it challenges us, lead us by your Spirit to respond in faithfulness
for the sake of Christ who gives us both courage and compassion.
Amen.**

Old Testament Reading – Exodus 14:19-31

Pew Bible, page 53

The Word of the Lord! /Thanks be to God!

***Hymn 445 – “God, How Can We Forgive”**

Gospel Reading – Matthew 18:21-35

Pew Bible, page 800

The Gospel of the Lord! /Praise to You, O Christ!

Sermon

Rev. Dr. David Shelor

Choral Response

"Love the Earth"

Schram

Mountains high, shielding valleys far below;
Oceans wide, brimming with the tide's ebb and
flow;
Rivers running to the thirsty land;
All nature in balance, hand in hand.

Butterflies with their lovely colored wings;
Birds that fly, soaring through the sky as they sing;
Nature has a beauty and a grace.
Each creature has a purpose and a place.

So, love the earth, love the earth.
Protect her, defend her, preserve her with your
tender love and care.

Love the earth, love the earth.
Fruit and grain, every flower's sweet perfume;
Wind and rain, nurturing the harvest in bloom;
Sun and moon and stars that brightly shine;
The wondrous gifts of nature are yours and mine.

So, love the earth, love the earth.
Protect her, defend her, preserve her with your
tender love and care.
All nature lives in balance. Each creature has a
purpose.
Preserve it all for tomorrow, and love the earth,
love the earth.

***Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed**

I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

**And in Jesus Christ, his Only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Doxology Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

**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.**

Action

for God’s love, justice, and peace in creation, in others and in ourselves.

Call - To creation, to others, to self

**We invite you to consider the ways you are called to serve.
Your generosity helps build God’s Beloved Community and change lives.**

Prayer of Dedication Please pray with me:

We give thanks to you, O God, because you have blessed us with so much. Yet we know that others have too little. Bless our gifts so they touch lives in need and become roots of justice in the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who sends us out in love. Amen.

***Hymn 720 – “Jesus Calls Us”**

***Benediction & Sharing Peace**

***Postlude**

Again, welcome, All! It is good to be together!

You are invited to a time of fellowship and refreshment in Hager Hall.

Hearing assistance devices and large print hymnals are available.

An usher would be glad to help you.

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