

Morning Prayer Liturgy for June 27, 2020

Opening Prayer

Let the light fall warm and red on the rock,
let the birds sing their evening song
and let God's people say Amen.

AMEN

Let the tools be stored away,
let the work be over and done
and let God's people say Amen

AMEN

Let the flowers close and the stars appear,
let hearts be glad and minds be calm
and let God's people say Amen

AMEN

Scripture:

Psalm 19 – from the Message

¹⁻² God's glory is on tour in the skies,
God-craft on exhibit across the horizon.
Madame Day holds classes every morning,
Professor Night lectures each evening.
³⁻⁴ Their words aren't heard,
their voices aren't recorded,
But their silence fills the earth:
unspoken truth is spoken everywhere.
⁴⁻⁵ God makes a huge dome
for the sun—a superdome!
The morning sun's a new husband
leaping from his honeymoon bed,
The daybreaking sun an athlete
racing to the tape.
⁶ That's how God's Word vaults across the skies
from sunrise to sunset,
Melting ice, scorching deserts,
warming hearts to faith.
⁷⁻⁹ The revelation of God is whole
and pulls our lives together.
The signposts of God are clear
and point out the right road.
The life-maps of God are right,
showing the way to joy.
The directions of God are plain
and easy on the eyes.

God's reputation is twenty-four-carat gold,
with a lifetime guarantee.
The decisions of God are accurate
down to the nth degree.
¹⁰ God's Word is better than a diamond,
better than a diamond set between emeralds.
You'll like it better than strawberries in spring,
better than red, ripe strawberries.
¹¹⁻¹⁴ There's more: God's Word warns us of danger
and directs us to hidden treasure.
Otherwise how will we find our way?
Or know when we play the fool?
Clean the slate, God, so we can start the day fresh!
Keep me from stupid sins,
from thinking I can take over your work;
Then I can start this day sun-washed,
scrubbed clean of the grime of sin.
These are the words in my mouth;
these are what I chew on and pray.
Accept them when I place them
on the morning altar,
O God, my Altar-Rock,
God, Priest-of-My-Altar.

Confession

Leader: O God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches

ALL: Open our eyes to see!

L: O God, your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals

ALL: Open our eyes to see!

L: O God, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants

ALL: Open our eyes to see!

L: O God, your creatures are slowly dying and your people are suffering

ALL: Open our eyes to see!

L: God our maker, so move us by the wonder of creation

ALL: That we repent and care more deeply.

L: So move us to grieve the loss of life

ALL: That we learn to cherish and protect your world.

Reading

Thirst by Mary Oliver

Another morning and I wake with thirst
for the goodness I do not have. I walk
out to the pond and all the way God has
given us such beautiful lessons. Oh Lord,
I was never a quick scholar but sulked

and hunched over my books past the hour
and the bell; grant me, in your mercy,
a little more time. Love for the earth
and love for you are having such a long
conversation in my heart. Who knows what
will finally happen or where I will be sent,
yet already I have given a great many things
away, expecting to be told to pack nothing,
except the prayers which, with this thirst,
I am slowly learning.

Affirmation

With the whole church

ALL: We affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.

With people everywhere

ALL: We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

With all creation

ALL: We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life; the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.

Scripture

Job 31:35-37; 38:1-11

Oh, that I had someone to hear me!
Here's my signature;
let the Almighty respond,
and let my accuser write an indictment.
Surely I would bear it on my shoulder,
tie it around me like a wreath.
I would give him an account of my steps,
approach him like a prince.

Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind:

Who is this darkening counsel
with words lacking knowledge?
Prepare yourself like a man;
I will interrogate you, and you will respond to me.
Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations?
Tell me if you know.

Who set its measurements? Surely you know.
Who stretched a measuring tape on it?
On what were its footings sunk;
who laid its cornerstone,
while the morning stars sang in unison
and all the divine beings shouted?
Who enclosed the Sea behind doors
when it burst forth from the womb,
when I made the clouds its garment,
the dense clouds its wrap,
when I imposed my limit for it,
put on a bar and doors
and said, "You may come this far, no farther;
here your proud waves stop"?

Meditation

Song-

Earth - By the Brilliance

Closing Prayer

Leader: This we know, the earth does not belong to us,

All: We belong to the earth!

L: This we know, all things are connected,

All: Like the blood that unites our whole human family.

L: This we know, we did not weave the web of life

All: We are merely a strand in it.

L: This we know, whatever we do to the web,

All: We do to ourselves.

L: Let us give thanks for the gift of creation,

All: Let us give thanks that all things hold together in Christ!

Blessing

L: Bless to us, O God,
the moon that is above us,
the earth that is beneath us,
the friends who are around us,
your image deep within us,

AMEN