

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

June 30, 2023

9:30 am

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## VISION STATEMENT

We are an open and affirming congregation.

**We genuinely welcome people of all ages,  
race, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,  
beliefs,  
and those who are cognitively  
and or physically challenged.**

Our vision is to be a community of love and purpose,  
**each one engaged in ministry,  
seeking to know Christ, growing in discipleship,  
and embodying God's love for the world.**



## **Welcome and announcements**

### **Guidelines for discussions**

- Wonder out loud
- Listen to understand
- Do not judge or correct -  
but offer another way to think about it.
- Invite others to share

## **Introducing the practice**

“Care for Creation; Restoring Creation”  
Questions/wonderings?

## **Opening Song** “All things Bright and Beautiful” #20

## **Finding the practice in Scripture**

### **Isaiah 43:1-2,19-21,**

43 But now, says the Lord—

the one who created you, Jacob,

the one who formed you, Israel:

Don't fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched

and flame won't burn you.

19 Look! I'm doing a new thing;

now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?

I'm making a way in the desert,

paths[a] in the wilderness.

20 The beasts of the field,

the jackals and ostriches, will honor me,  
because I have put water in the desert  
and streams in the wilderness  
to give water to my people,  
my chosen ones,  
21 this people whom I formed for myself,  
who will recount my praise.

### **Questions for discussion**

How do these passages speak to the way we use the earth resources?

### **Romans 8:18-25**

18 I believe that the present suffering is nothing compared to the coming glory that is going to be revealed to us. 19 The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters. 20 Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice—it was the choice of the one who subjected it—but in the hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from slavery to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of God's children. 22 We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. 23 And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. 24 We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? 25 But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

### **Questions**

What do we fear, and what is our hope?

What risk must we take, what sacrifice must we make to create justice for the people and the planet?

**Song** "God of the Sparrow" #22

**Finding the practice then and now** (examples/illustrations)

Can you think of examples/practices?

In what ways do we as congregation share the earth's resources, are we making a statement, or plea?

**Practicing the practice** (active response)

Commitment to do something in the coming week to appreciate the earth, to connect with the earth, to share the earth.

How do we (the congregation) create habits that foster the sharing of creation?

**Offering**

**Prayers of the people**

Response "Kumbaya" #472

**Following Jesus** (summary and Charge)

**Benediction**