

Grace Presbyterian Church

June 16, 2023

9:30 am

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; Till" Questions/wonderings?

Opening Song "This is My Father's World"

Finding the practice in Scripture (bible study)

Genesis 2:4b-25

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, On the day the Lord God made earth and sky—
5 before any wild plants appeared on the earth, and before any field crops grew, because the Lord God hadn't yet sent rain on the earth and there was still no human being to farm the fertile land,
6 though a stream rose from the earth and watered all of the fertile land—

7 the Lord God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into his nostrils. The human came to life. 8 The Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east and put there the human he had formed. 9 In the fertile land, the Lord God grew every beautiful tree with edible fruit, and also he grew the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river flows from Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides into four headwaters. 11 The name of the first river is the Pishon. It flows around the entire land of Havilah, where there is

gold. 12 That land's gold is pure, and the land also has sweet-smelling resins and gemstones. 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon. It flows around the entire land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is the Tigris, flowing east of Assyria; and the name of the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The Lord God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. 16 The Lord God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from all of the garden's trees; 17 but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!" 18 Then the Lord God said, "It's not good that the human is alone. I will make him a helper that is perfect for him." 19 So the Lord God formed from the fertile land all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky and brought them to the human to see what he would name them. The human gave each living being its name. 20 The human named all the livestock, all the birds in the sky, and all the wild animals. But a helper perfect for him was nowhere to be found.

21 So the Lord God put the human into a deep and heavy sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh over it. 22 With the rib taken from the human, the Lord God fashioned a woman and brought her to the human being. 23 The human said, "This one finally is bone from my bones and flesh from my flesh. She will be called a woman because from a man, she was taken."

Questions for discussion

Why two stories of creation? Differences? Similarities?

What is our relations to the soil?

What job does God give to the human?

Mark 4:26-29

26 Then Jesus said, "This is what God's kingdom is like. It's as though someone scatters seed on the ground, 27 then sleeps and wakes night and day. The seed sprouts and grows, but the farmer doesn't know how. 28 The earth produces crops all by itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full head of grain. 29 Whenever the crop is ready, the farmer goes out to cut the grain because it's harvest time."

Questions

When was the last time you were in touch with the soil? visited a farm or farm market? share the experience...what do you feel? think? Do you connect with creation and creator?

Song "In the Garden"

Finding the practice then and now (examples/illustrations)

Can you think of examples/practices?

How are we called to tend and care for the earth?

Practicing the practice (active response)

Commitment to do something in the coming week.

How do we (the congregation) create habits that foster healing and care for creation?

Offering

Prayers of the people

Response "Kumbaya"

Following Jesus (summary and Charge)

Benediction