

August 23-Written Service

Praise team- Deb and Vern Van Peurse, Lindsay Hunter, Collen Turner

Special Music- Tegan Lindgren

Pianist- Amanda Vande Zande

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

All: A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance.

Leader: God has made everything beautiful in its time, and has set eternity in our hearts.

All: Praise be to God, the creator of time and space.

Leader: Let us worship the God who guides us through every season of life.

All: We come together this morning to worship our great God!

Song: What a Beautiful Name

You were the World at the beginning

One with God, the Lord Most High

Your hidden glory in creation,

now revealed in You, our Christ.

What a beautiful name it is. What a beautiful name it is,

The name of Jesus Christ my King

What a beautiful name it is. Nothing compares to this

What a beautiful name it is. The name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us,

So, Jesus you brought heaven down

My sin was great; Your Love was greater.

What could separate us now?

What a wonderful name it is. What a wonderful name it is,

The name of Jesus Christ my King

What a wonderful name it is. Nothing compares to this

What a wonderful name it is. The name of Jesus.

Death could not hold you; the veil tore before you.

You silence the boast of sin and grave.

The heavens are roaring, the praise of your glory
for You are raised to life again

You have no rival; You have no equal
Now and forever, God, You reign
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the name above all names.

What a powerful name it is What a powerful name it is,
The name of Jesus Christ, my King
What a powerful name it is, nothing can stand against
What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus.
What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus.

Prayer

Song: Revelation Song

Worthy Is the Lamb Who was slain;
Holy, holy is He.
Sing a new song
To Him who sits on heaven's mercy.

Holy, holy, holy,
Is the Lord God Almighty;
Who was and is
And is to come.

With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings;
You are my everything
And I will adore You.

Clothed in rainbows
Of living color;
Flashes of lightning,
Rolls of thunder.

Blessing and honor,
Strength and glory
And power be
To You the only wise King.

Holy, holy, holy,
Is the Lord God Almighty;
Who was and is
And is to come.

With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings;
You are my everything
And I will adore You.

Filled with wonder,
Awestruck wonder,
At the mention of Your name;

Jesus, Your name is power,
Breath and living water,
Such a marvelous mystery.

Holy, holy, holy,
Is the Lord God Almighty;
Who was and is
And is to come.

With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings;
You are my everything
And I will adore You.

Announcements

Special Music: Still Waters sung by Tegan Lindgren

Congregational Prayer

Song; #793- For the Beauty of the Earth (vs. 1,2,3,5)

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:

Lord of all,
To Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
Or the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:

Lord of all,
To Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above;
For all gentle thoughts and mild:

Lord of all,
To Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For Thyself, best gift divine,
To our race so freely given;
For that great, great love of Thine,
Peace on earth and joy in heaven.

Lord of all,
To Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

Offering/Offertory

Offering song- Doxology

Offering Prayer

Children's message

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

² a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
³ a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
⁶ a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
⁸ a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.
⁹What do workers gain from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. ¹¹He
has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can
fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Message

Series Intro-How Great Thou Art

A few weeks as we close out the summer season
God speaks to us in all kinds of ways

One way that I've been thinking about lately is how God speaks to us through Art

For next few weeks, we'll look at a few examples of this and see how the truths from Scripture can be
shown visually

To go along with that, I want to invite you (at any age) to grab a clipboard, some paper, some pencils or
markers and to draw along with our message and passage each week

You're welcome to share those, but don't have to

Intro-visiting Terry Redlin gallery in Watertown, SD with a friend

One of the things that stuck with both of us was a series of paintings called An American Portrait
From their website- A first memory leaves a lasting impression—from the first day of school to the first
goodbye. In this series, Terry Redlin draws from his own memories to tell a story of heartfelt firsts. Each
painting in this series is unique yet builds upon preceding images of a house and the changing seasons of
life.

Explore the seven paintings in *An American Portrait* series and recall many of your own firsts.

As we share images of paintings look for

Changes from one to the next

What stays the same in each

Share the 7 images, with a little time to look at each

His First Friend

His First Day

His First Date

His First Graduation

His First Homecoming

His First Goodbye

His Last Goodbye

Reminds me of our passage today

Scripture-Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

We have a strange relationship to time

So much changes from season to season, year to year

We are always comparing to the past or dreaming/dreading about the future

Compare to past

Our pictures are often idealized about the past

We want to go back there

We want to stay in those idealized moments

How much nostalgia do we see online?

Algorithm gives me pictures of the 80s, stories of staying out until lights came on, music movies, retro video games, the toys we play with

What does it send you?

I'm guessing there's some past time that they want to take you back to as well

Part of that has to do with a dissatisfaction for today

It's not just "this is what we used to do"

It's "things were better back then"

Drinking from the hose is presented as an objective good

Compare to future-dream/dread

We tend to have 2 different approaches to the future

Dread-imagine only the worst case scenarios, catastrophizing

Caution here is that we miss the beauty, can't enjoy the present

Dream-only rose colored glasses; all peace, no war; all sun, no rain

Caution here is that we are not prepared for, faith crumbles when dreams shatter, miss the present as well

We want to control what our times will look like

To freeze things in the past, maybe stopping with just the first painting

The past is a known quantity

To limit what the future might hold

To filter out all the pain, the tears, the scattering, the hate, the war

But we don't get to do that

That's not the world we live in (yet)

Reread the first part of the passage

All of these things go into a life

We should expect each of these in the times we are given

We won't always understand/comprehend it all

But God sees all our days from the beginning to the end
The focus shouldn't be on understanding it all
Trying to figure out the reasons behind everything usually gets us into trouble
How many examples do we have of pastors blaming natural disasters on specific sins
Bible advises caution to those who presume too much knowledge of God's will and His plan
Maybe a better reminder for us is that we're told that God makes everything beautiful in its time
This can help us to be present in the present
To be constantly looking for God's beauty in each moment
And to trust the one who holds each our moments in His hands
All of our firsts and all of our lasts
And every difficult, beautiful moment in between

Song: #147- How Great Thou Art (vs. 1,2,4)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When thro' the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Benediction

Postlude