

Opening Prayer

O God our Creator,
we come before you this morning
in worship and praise,
in longing and anticipation.
We wait to hear your Word broken open,
and in so doing, to be broken open, ourselves.
Incarnate God,
please ready us now,
so that it is you we hear,
and not our own voices projected onto you.
Holy Spirit,
empower us now,
to enter fully into worship,
and to leave, later, transformed
and ready to live out your Love and Wisdom.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. AMEN.

Opening Hymn: *VU 409 Morning Has Broken*

Children's Time

Suggested book: On the Day You Were Born by Debra Frasier

Hymn: *VU 291 All Things Bright and Beautiful* (OR: *VU 296 This is God's Wondrous World*)

Scripture Reading: *Job 38:1-18, 39:1-4, 40:1-5 (NRSV)*

Sermon *Where Were You?*
(video sermon preached by the Rev. Dr. Jessica Hetherington)

Hymn: *MV 39 Mother Earth, Our Mother Birthing*
(Note: This hymn is ideal here and has been written with the Scripture text in mind, by ecological biblical scholar Norman Habel. If it is unfamiliar, an alternative could be: *VU 296 This is God's Wondrous World*)

Closing Hymn: *VU 884 You Shall Go Out with Joy*

Benediction

Go out now, into the world.
Go out now, into the world
that is bigger, that is more complex,
than we can picture or imagine.
Go out now, into the world that is
created by God, empowered by God,
and exists for God.
Go out now, and find your place
in that world.
Find your place, as a child of God and cousin to all that is.
Find your place, and from that place, seek to live out
the love, the compassion, and the grace of God
that is yours, that is ours, that belongs to all of God's creation.

And as you go, know that you go not alone,
but imbedded in a world full of grandeur and mystery,
with God our Creator, our Redeemer and our Sustainer,
this day, and forever more. AMEN.

Other Hymn Suggestions:

VU 226 For the Beauty of the Earth
VU 288 Great Is Thy Faithfulness
VU 307 Touch the Earth Lightly
VU 520 We Plough the Fields