God's Glory

My husband and I were driving on a stretch of road in northwestern Arizona. Almost every bend in the road or curve we came around left us saying over and over again . . . until we started to laugh about it, but still couldn't keep from saying . . . "oh my goodness!" or "wow!" at the grandeur and beauty.

I enjoy focusing my small camera's macro lens on dewdrops, raindrops, on tiny flying creatures with iridescent blue, green, or golden wings, and on the patterns and colors of blossoms.

Have you noticed that morning glory flowers look like a light is glowing from deep in their centers? Have you felt the spirit of the trees while walking in a woods? Have you heard the happy chirp of a goldfinch or the chuckle of a nuthatch? Have you tried to count the colors in clusters of sweet gum leaves in the fall, or the number of stars on a clear, crisp night?

Think of the rich variety of people around the world, with so many interesting cultural foods, rituals, languages, histories, and colors. Notice the variety of people right around each of us, with different interests and abilities. Look into eyes, listen to stories, hold a hand.

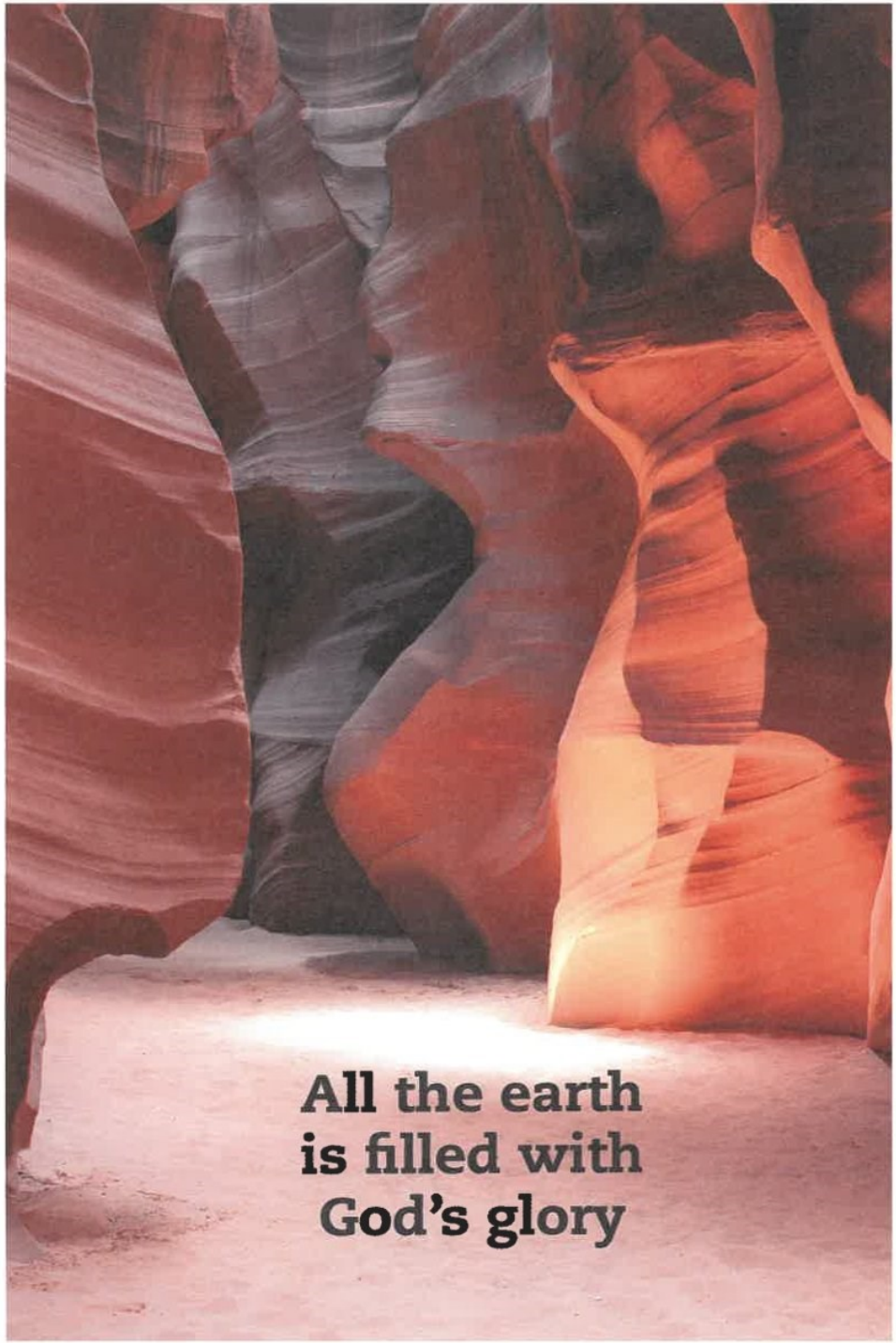
"All the earth is filled with God's glory." (Isaiah 6:3)

Lord, forgive us for wars, famine, dysfunctional governments, hate, fear, prejudice, greed, ignorance, abuse of power, name-calling . . . forgive us when we contribute to any kind of pain and suffering. Give us eyes to notice the grand and the small; give us wisdom and loving strength to protect and share all that is so precious.

—Lois (Baldwin) Good
North Manchester, Indiana

"Winged creatures were stationed around him. Each had six wings: with two they veiled their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew about. They shouted to each other, saying: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of heavenly forces! ***All the earth is filled with God's glory***!'" (Isaiah 6:2-3, *CEB*). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17.

May 26, 2024. Photo © Bruce Snyder. Used by permission.
Living Word Bulletin Series © 2024 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP 10:45 AM

May 26, 2024

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Diana Shepherd, Worship Leader

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE "Praise Ye the Triune God" (Hughes)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Ascribe to God glory and strength; Worship God in holy splendor.

All: ***The splendor of our Creator meets us here. We are filled with awe before our God.***

One: The voice of God is powerful and full of majesty. God offers strength and peace to all people.

All: ***God's voice thunders over the waters. God's strength empowers our response.***

One: Holy, holy, holy is the God of hosts. The whole earth is full of God's glory.

All: ***The universe is God's dwelling place. There is no place from which God is absent.***

***HYMN #120** *"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"*

[Verse 1]

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed trinity!

[Verse 2]

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

[Verse 3]

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

[Verse 4]

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty! All Thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed trinity!

***OPENING PRAYER**

O God, you are beyond our wildest imagining. When we speak of you, there are no words to describe your majesty and power. We know you best in Jesus of Nazareth who shared your love with all he met. He called for our rebirth as your children, cleansed by water and the spirit. We come together seeking renewal of the vows made at our baptism. We want to be faithful as Christ was faithful. We want to be fruitful in the work you give us to do. Bless our worship that we may be a blessing to others. Amen.

MORNING ANTHEM "Rejoice!" (Martin)

Temple Choir

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

As a sign of our rebirth in the Spirit, we offer back to God all that we have received in this life. This time of giving is a sacred symbol of our intent to live as God intends. We lift up our tiny tokens of thanksgiving, entrusting to the ministry of this church, here and around the world, not only these gifts but ourselves as well.

We joyfully give as one body, both gathered in his house of worship and gathered through virtual technology. We give by placing our offerings in the plate, mailing to or dropping off at the church, or using Paypal. Together, as we give, we declare our dedication to Jesus and our obedience to serve him.

Offertory "Blessed Trinity" (Arr. Blake)

***Doxology** *"Praise God from whom"*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. Receive our offering, God of glory, that our church may come alive in the Spirit. May these gifts, and the way we live our lives each day, proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Strengthen us in our giving. Help us to be generous enough to experience the joy you find in showering us with more than we can ever give away. Thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.
Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.
An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.

UNISON MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, As we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy every day, we think of how they were your precious children. We ask that you please call attention to the leaders of all nations, the need for peaceful resolutions to problems rather than actions of violence and war. We pray that your Spirit will help us to be instruments for peace. Please hold our servicemen and women in your strong arms of protection. Cover them with your sheltering grace and your presence as they may find themselves standing in the gap for our protection. We also remember the families of our troops. We ask for your unique blessings to fill their homes, and we pray your peace, provision, and strength will fill their lives. May the members of our armed forces feel our deep concern and love for them. Watch over them God and keep them safe. In the name of Jesus we pray…

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN #41 *"Come, thou Almighty King"*

[Verse 1]

Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise: Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious, come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

[Verse 2]

Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword, our prayer attend. Come, and thy people bless, and give thy word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

[Verse 3]

Come, Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour. Thou who almighty art, now rule in ev'ry heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

[Verse 4]

To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be hence evermore. Thy sov'reign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.

SCRIPTURE READING John 3:1-17 NT 93

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

MESSAGE "God Wears Three Hats" Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN #311** *"The church's one foundation"*

[Verse 1]

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; She is his new creation by water and the Word. From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

[Verse 2]

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth. One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

[Verse 3]

Though with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed, yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?" And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

[Verse 4]

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forevermore; till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are bless'd, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

[Verse 5]

Yet she on earth hath union with the God the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won. Oh, happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated.
Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.

***POSTLUDE** "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" (Chesterton)

(Worship Resources by Lavon Bayler, "Led by Love", p. 106 & 107)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hagerstown
Church of the Brethren
15 S. Mulberry Street,
Hagerstown, Maryland
21740
301-733-3565
Fax: 301-733-3598

Office: Tuesday—Friday
Flexible hours
(appointments welcome/
call ahead)

Morning Praise Worship
at 8:30 AM
Sunday School at 9:30 AM
Worship and Facebook Live
at 10:45 AM

www.hagerstowncob.org

www.facebook.com/
hagerstowncob

Twyla Rowe
Pastor

Allyson McPeak
Administrative Assistant

Burton Young
Director of
Music Ministries

Don Rowe
Interior Esthetics
Technician

We welcome you to our church and Rejoice in your participation with us in worship. It is our prayer that you will experience the presence of God's Spirit and that it will equip you for service and ministry in the week ahead. Our Pastor, Deacons, and Cluster Leaders are available after worship and during the week to listen and assist you in your Christian pilgrimage.

THE ANNOUNCER May 26, 2024

If you placed someone on the prayer list and they are now celebrating a recovery and would like their name taken off the list, please contact the church office.

If you or a loved one has surgery scheduled, is hospitalized, or would like a visit from the pastor, please notify the church.

"Take a Moment" Let this be our daily Take a Moment prayer for the week beginning Sunday, May 26 - God, Holy Spirit, Jesus...I come before you in awe in these quiet moments. Understanding you as the Holy Trinity...the Three In One, is challenging. Yet the mystery of the Trinity directs my thoughts to the reality that you are greater than anything I could possibly imagine. I know you best through Jesus because he lived in physical form on this earth. Through his life, death and resurrection you have revealed your deep, personal and powerful love for everyone. Thank you for this revelation of who you are. You are amazing, great Three In One! Bind me to you. Wash away all that would keep me from intimacy with you. Empower me with your grace, love, and compassion to serve as your instrument to the hurting and the lost. I will never stop seeking you...even though there will always be things about you that will remain a mystery to me while I live in this lifetime. Amen.

Attendance. Please sign the attendance rosters found at the end of your pew, or possibly in the hymnal rack, and pass it down the row so everyone can sign.

Junior Church will be held today for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a special time together. (Parents may, of course, opt to keep their child in worship with them especially if the child is uncertain about going.) If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Brenda Shane. **Junior Church will now be held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

We will be welcoming new members to our congregation next Sunday, June 2nd.

Next Sunday is our regular Food Pantry collection. Bring in your gift(s) of non-perishable food items and place them on the cart as you enter the west entrance, and a volunteer delivers the food. **The collection for June will be going to the Community Picnic.** We thank everyone for their continued support of this ministry to our community! Just a reminder - all items should be either dry, boxed, or in cans. Please do not bring in anything in a glass jar that could break and injure a recipient or our volunteers. Thank you!

Graduate Recognition Sunday. We will be recognizing our graduates next Sunday, June 2nd during both worship services.

Our Church Picnic will be held next Sunday, June 2nd at Marty Snook Park, pavilion #4 at 1:00 pm. 17901 Halfway Blvd., Hagerstown, MD 21740. Please bring a covered dish and a lawn chair, if you like. Spiritual Nurture will provide chicken, hot dogs, water, and paper goods. Please indicate on the sign-up sheet in the west entrance and fellowship hall if you will be attending the church picnic. We need a head count of how many are attending. (Directions to get to the park: from Virginia Ave., turn left at the Dollar General onto Bowers Ave., and pavilion #4 will be on your left. From Halfway Blvd, turn into the main entrance of the park, travel all the way to the last pavilion, and #4 will be on your right.) Thank you!

Fellowship Time will be held next Sunday, June 2nd in the Mullendore Room from 10:20 am until 10:40 am. Cookies and coffee will be served. All are welcome!

Date Change/VBS Meeting—The Christian Education Ministry Team's next meeting will be held on June 5th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. **This meeting is also for ALL VBS Volunteers.**

The Service & Outreach Team is organizing our Community Picnic which will be held on Saturday, June 8th from 11:30 am to 1 pm. We will need many of our members to help us with this. We need help to set up on the parking lot at 8:30 am and take down at 1 pm. We need help with food servers, hospitality, clothing give-a-way, Yoyo balloons, welcome table, a photographer, and a person to monitor the bathroom. We are collecting men's, women's, and children's shoes and clothing. Any clothing items need to be at the church by Wednesday, June 5th. We also need 6 to 7 crockpots full of baked beans. They can be store-bought beans. A sign-up sheet is available in the west entrance and fellowship hall. We appreciate all you can do to make this a special day for the neighborhood.

Bread & Cup Communion. We will have a Bread & Cup Communion June 9th. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

The Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings are held the second Sunday of each month. The screenings will take place in the Fellowship Hall before the 8:30 AM Morning Praise Worship Service and in the Mullendore room before the 10:45 AM worship.

Cash for Causes/Martin's Gift Card Program. Purchase Martin's gift cards to take to the store to pay for your groceries or gas, and 5% of the face value of the gift card is a donation to the church and goes toward your yearly charitable contribution. To purchase a card, please contact Larry Kees, Jr. (301-331-0107). We can make arrangements to leave cards in your church mailbox or mail them to you.

Deadline for bulletins and newsletters. Announcements for the weekly bulletin need to be given to the administrative assistant before noon on Wednesday. Announcements for the monthly newsletters need to be given to the administrative assistant before the 15th of each month. Let's help her out by meeting deadlines, and also by not asking for special exceptions. Announcements should continue to be emailed to secretaryhcob@gmail.com. Thank you!

When you leave items at the mailboxes for someone else to retrieve, please call or email them to alert them the item is there. Remember you may need to follow up with them to make sure they've gotten the item. Thank you!

Printed copies of Leadership and Ministry team meeting minutes are available in the west entrance. The holders are located on the wall beside the bulletin board.

Please remember to keep the administrative assistant updated on when and where meetings/events are being held. Please email or call the Administrative Assistant with information that needs added to the church calendar. **301-733-3565 or secretaryhcob@gmail.com**. Thank you!

Annual Conference will be held July 3 - 7 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The theme this year is "Welcome + Worthy" *Romans 16:2.*

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 26
Junior Church
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Monday, May 27
Church Office Closed
Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 28
6:30 pm Leadership Team/Room 302
6:30 pm HCOB Softball/Field 2
8:00 pm HCOB Softball/Lights Field 2

Wednesday, May 29
Administrative Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Friday, May 31
8:00 am Bulletin preparation time/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3 pm)

Saturday, June 1
Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, June 2
Food Pantry Sunday
Graduate Sunday
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:20 am Fellowship Time/Mullendore Room
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live
1:00 pm Church Picnic/Marty Snook Park
3:00 pm Blessing of the Seed/Myersville, MD

Remember our weekday schedule is subject to rapid change.

You may mail your offering to
15 S. Mulberry Street,
Hagerstown MD 21740
OR
you can make a secure offering donation on our website using PayPal www.hagerstowncob.org

The church calendar is online at www.hagerstowncob.org.
Click the calendar tab.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for the
2024 Blessing of the Seed
Sunday, June 2nd at 3:00 pm in the Growing Fields,
11720 Wolfsville Road, Myersville, MD

Celebrate the anticipation as we begin our 19th year working to reduce world hunger with this year's program in Paraguay Lower Chaco.
All are welcome.

As preparations are made for this gathering, precautions are being taken to follow State of Maryland and Frederick County guidelines for gatherings.

About the Paraguay Lower Chaco Program

The Gran Chaco region is an immense and little-heard-of region in the heart of South America. It is the biggest forest reserve on the continent after the Amazon and one of the largest dry forests in the world. A major ecosystem, it is also a region with great cultural diversity, home to 25 different indigenous ethnic groups including communities of Guarani, Wichi, Qom and Enxet Sur, who for centuries lived as semi-nomadic hunter gatherers before losing most of their land.

The purpose of this three-year program is to partner with 588 families (approximately 2,200 people) in six indigenous communities (16 villages) of the Paraguayan Chaco region of South America to create durable improvements in the areas of access to water, food security, community development and organization. The program provides culturally-sensitive technical assistance in family and community farming and livestock, community capacity-building and support indigenous-led advocacy.

"Field of Hope"
Growing Hope Globally 2024 Growing Project
Participation Form

I/We will sponsor _____ acres at the donation rate of $250 per acre (1/2 acre = $125, ¼ acre = $62.50, etc.).

The following person(s) are joining me in this donation_____
_____

Date:_____ Total Pledge = $_____

Thank you for paying your pledge by **September 22, 2024**.
>Make CHECKS payable to Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, with "Field of Hope" on the memo line and put it in the regular offering together with this sponsor form.
>If paying in CASH, use an offering envelope, mark it "Field of Hope," and put it in the regular offering together with this sponsor form.

Your Signature: _____

Growing Project Committee Representatives from the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren are **Arnold Platou** and

Participating Churches:
Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren;
Christ Reformed United Church of Christ
Edgewood Church of the Brethren
Grossnickle Church of the Brethren
Hagerstown Church of the Brethren
Harmony Church of the Brethren
Manor Church of the Brethren
Myersville Church of the Brethren
Third Street Church of God
Welty Church of the Brethren
Catholic Daughter of the Americas Court Mary Francis and Court Hagerstown
Knights of Columbus, Seton Chapter

Our thanks to Donnie and Donna Grossnickle, farmers for "Field of Hope," and to Jeff and Patty Hurwitz for making the land available for the project.