

God's Handiwork

What's the most incredible thing you've ever seen? Maybe it was the Grand Canyon or the Rocky Mountains. Perhaps it was something made with human hands. After all, even things made by humans point to God's glory since God created humans as well.

For me, the most impressive objects that point to God's majesty are things of nature. The Bible states that God's creation speaks of God's eternal power and divine nature (Romans 1:20). There's something about standing at the base of a huge rock, craning your neck to take in its vastness, that reminds us God is huge, and we're small. What boggles my mind further is that the biggest things we've seen in person are smaller than the earth, which itself is enormous. Yet the earth is tiny compared to some of the other planets and, of course, the sun, which we all revolve around.

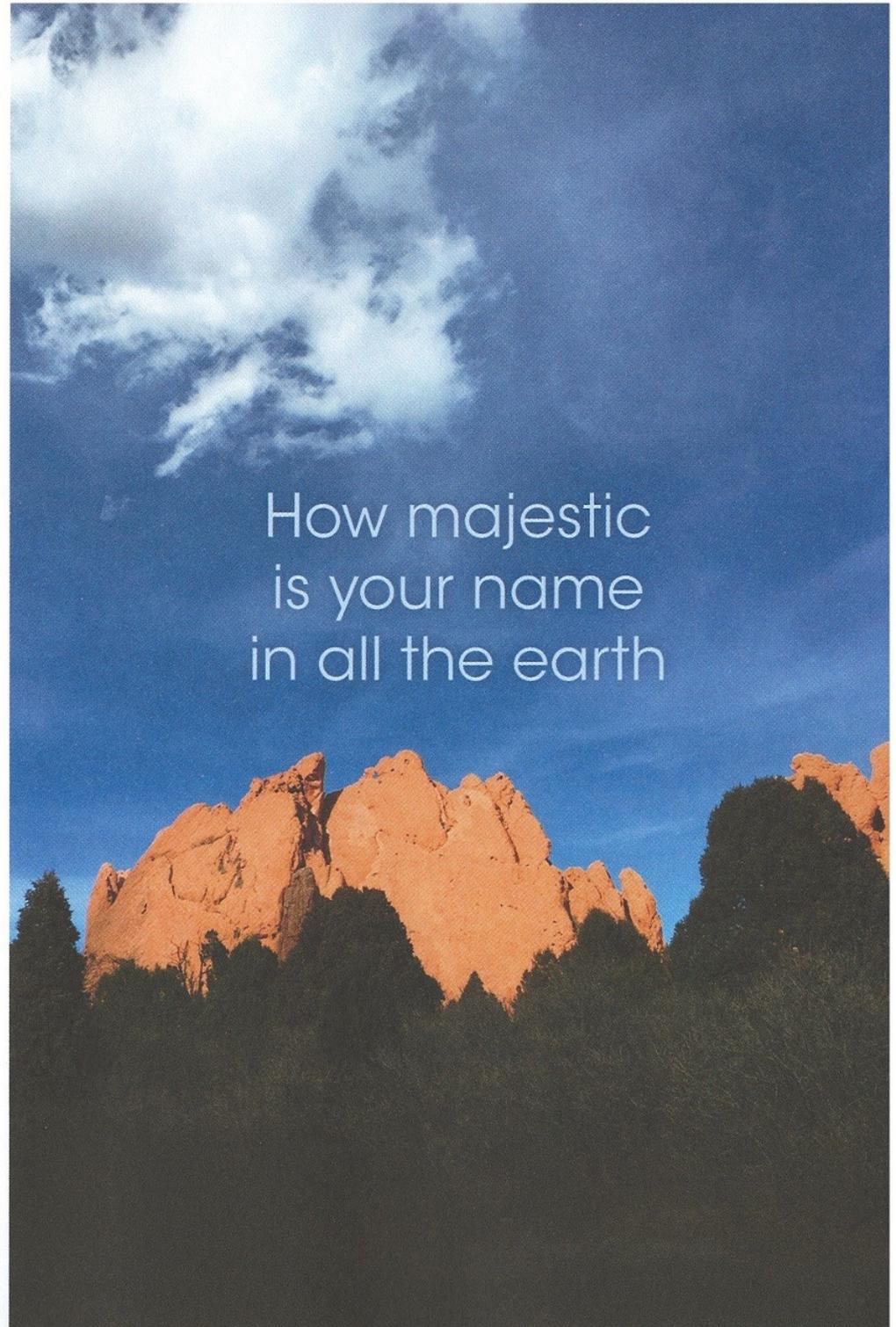
God is the creator of all of this! And despite God's infinite power and divine nature, God still cares for *us*. As David penned in Psalm 8, God has crowned human beings with glory and honor, giving us a special place in the universe: "You have given [us] dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under [our] feet" (v. 6). God cares about us, and shows great love in sending Jesus as a sacrifice for us. So, we live our lives trusting God for our hope, peace, and life eternal through Jesus Christ.

So, how should we respond when we are amazed by God's power and divinity? What do we do when we are blown away by God's handiwork? First of all, in humility, we marvel that God cares for *us*. Then, like David, we lift our voices in praise. All glory and honor belong to our God. Let's sing with all our might: "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

—Ben Godfrey
York, Pennsylvania

Text for today: "O LORD, our Sovereign, *how majestic is your name in all the earth!* You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor" (Psalm 8:1-5, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8 (1); Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16.

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10-03-21, World Communion Sunday. Printed in the USA
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

October 3, 2021

World Communion Sunday – Love Feast

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Jesus, Bread of Life, I Pray Thee” (Wagner)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Chris Stockslager, Worship Leader

One: In the midst of struggle and strife, God is with us.

All: Praise be to God for God’s steadfast presence.

One: Even though many things in life hurt and disappoint us, God is with us.

All: We seek God’s mercy and grace to heal our wounded souls.

One: Come, bring your needs and wants to God, for God will hear your cries and restore your souls.

All: Praise be to God for mercy, peace, and hope.

***HYMN #17** “We gather together”

[Verse 1]

*We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;
He chastens and hastens his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own.*

[Verse 2]

*Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine.
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!*

[Verse 3]

*We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.*

Let thy congregation escape tribulation.

Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Lord, we come to you today with so many things on our hearts. You call us to be in relationship of trust and love with you and you offer healing to us for those portions of our lives that are broken and injured. Help us to be open to your mercy and healing love. For we ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

Look around you with a sense of awe and wonder. Even in the most difficult circumstances of life, we can find beauty and integrity and places where God’s abiding glory is evident. Let us give thanks for God’s imprint on our lives, for the sustaining word that gives purpose to our days, and for the ministry in which we are engaged together, as we present our offering.

You are invited to place your offering in the plate at the front of the chancel during the offertory or after the service. If you are watching on facebook live or the HCOB webpage, we virtually pass the offering plate to you. You can prepare your offering to be mailed or to be dropped off at the church this week; or you can use Paypal on the Hagerstowncob webpage.

Offertory “Bread of the World” (Martin)

***Doxology #119** “Praise God from whom”

(continued)

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us pray. As long ago you spoke through the prophets, speak now through us and through the fruits of our labor which we share. We dedicate to your service all the good things we have received from your hand. May we proclaim your name to our brothers and sisters in this congregation. May our gifts carry the good news throughout our community, making a difference in the quality of life experienced by many, near and far. 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING: Job 1:1, 2:-10 OT 453-454

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason."

Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that

people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face."

The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life."

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

MESSAGE "Suffering and Faithfulness"

Pastor Twyla Rowe

TEMPLE CHOIR "Jesus Be Our Bread" (Wold)

LOVE FEAST – Welcome to the Table

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Merciful Lord, you know that we are stubborn and willful. We believe that we know the right way to do everything and to heal all the troubles of the world. We resort to extraordinary means to provide healing only to find that we have not placed our trust in your redeeming love. Our efforts fall far short of the goal of reconciliation. Forgive us our stubbornness and arrogance. Heal our wounded souls and restore hope and compassion to our relationships with you and with each other. Lift us up and cause us to serve you by serving others in this world. Amen.

The Symbol of Service-

The Service of Handwashing

The Symbol of Community-

The Service of Fellowship

The Symbol of Redemption-

The Service of Holy Communion

Declaration of Faith for the Bread:

*The bread which we break is the communion
of the body of Christ.*

Declaration of Faith for the Cup:

*The cup which we bless is the communion
of the blood of Christ.*

***HYMN #336**

“When peace, like a river”

[Verse 1]

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea
billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

[Refrain]

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

[Verse 2]

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest
assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.*

[Refrain]

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

[Verse 3]

*Redeemed! Oh, the bliss of this glorious thought, my sin not in part,
but the whole is nailed to his cross, and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

[Refrain]

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

[Verse 4]

*And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul.*

[Refrain]

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.

POSTLUDE

“Victory Through Faith”

(Paxton)

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

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