

Order for the Worship of God

Highland Presbyterian Church

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2015

Jesus sowed his seed in our hearts, then off he went.

He knew things would not be ideal.

There were the birds and the droughts,

the weeds and the insects,

the parasites and the blights.

But there was also the power of the seed itself.

Joseph G. Donders, teacher and chaplain

University of Nairobi, Kenya

Gathering around THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING SONG *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise*

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

**We come before God in thanksgiving
for the beginnings and endings we experience in life...
the children who are just beginning the adventure of life;
the elderly whose witness and work are drawing to a close;
the excitement of a project just begun, filling us with anticipation;
the relief we feel when a goal is reached and our dreams achieved.**

May we always remember that God is the source of all things living,
and live our lives as gifts of thankful response.

Let us worship God, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

OPENING PRAYER

**O Holy One of God, we pray that you would give us ears to hear
hearts to love, and wills devoted to serve,
that in the days to come we may be known as children of faith;
that this place may be an oasis,
a place where people come to find out about you,
where lives are straightened out and made whole,
where people find the peace that passes understanding.
Give us, we pray, hearts that desire these things above all else.**

+HYMN

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

+CALL TO CONFESSION

+TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

Dr. Kit Loong Yee

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Kelly

see insert **O God of love and mercy,
you are the refuge of our lives,**

Mary Martin **our haven in a storm,
our shelter when all about us spins and whirls out of control.
You are God beyond all words,
a hope beyond all wisdom.
In mysterious, hidden ways, you teach us the meaning of true strength.**

**You grant us a vision of the mightiest trees,
whose trunks have weathered many storms.
Let us learn from them to bend and sway in fierce winds,
lest we crack and split and crash to earth.
Reveal to us, O Faithful God,
the knowledge of when we must stand tall,
and lend us the courage to know that we can. Amen.**

+ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

+PASSING THE PEACE

+At this sign, you are invited to rise in body or in spirit.

Bold: all people respond.

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Proclaiming THE WORD

RESPONSIVE READING ~ *Prayer for Deliverance*

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this.

**We trust and delight in the Lord.
We commit our way to you, O God.**

He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,
the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.
If the Lord delights in a person's way, God makes one's steps firm;
though he stumble, he will not fall for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

**Lord, make our righteousness shine.
Delight in our way and uphold us with your hand.**

Turn from evil and do good, then you will dwell in the land forever.
For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones.
They will be protected forever,
but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off;
the righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever.
The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

**Lord, make us righteous and just.
Protect us, save us, and be our stronghold in times of trouble.**

The Lord helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked and he saves them,
because they take refuge in him.

Lord, help us, deliver us, and save us, for we take refuge in you.

+HYMN

This Is My Father's World

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 3:17-19

SERMON

IN THE INTERIM: EVEN HERE, EVEN NOW

Responding to THE WORD

based on Psalm 124

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ~ *In Faith*

In faith, we acknowledge that God has acted in the past, in a ho

In faith, we confess that God seeks to rule our lives today.

**In faith, we affirm that God continues to send prophets
and speaks through willing vessels
to guide the course of all history toward its end.**

**In faith, we imagine that end to be characterized
by the traits we find in Jesus Christ:
compassion, healing, justice, and love.**

In faith, we long to be part of that purpose.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY

Give Thanks

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing and Following THE WORD into th

Hymn 293
+HYMN

Christian Women, Christian Men

Pastor +BENEDICTION

+SENDING SONG

Song of Hope

+POSTLUDE