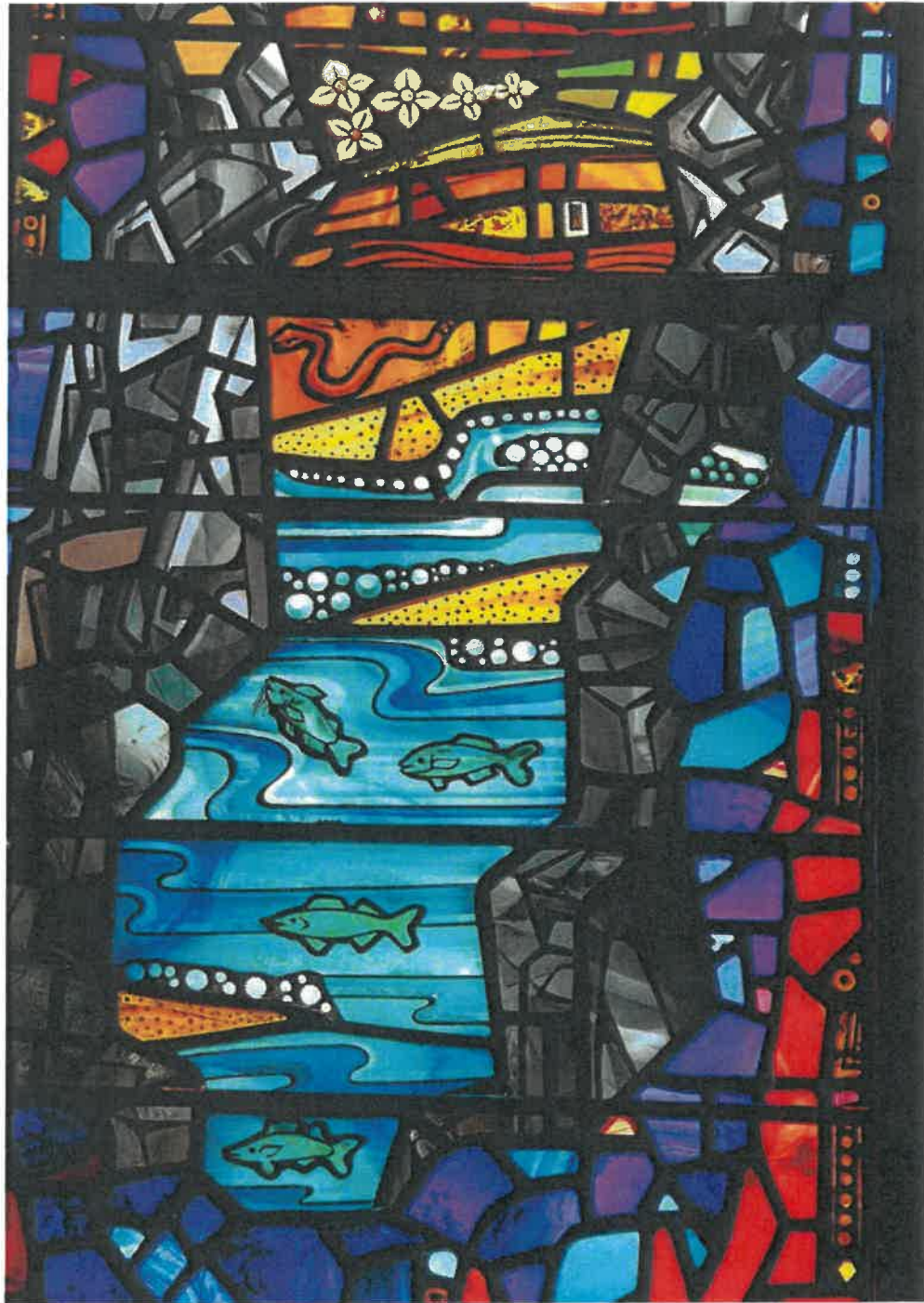




***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
August 9, 2026***

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
SABBATH JUBILEE**

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONG

"This is the Day"

UNISON WELCOME

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

CENTERING SONG

"Come Join the Circle"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

written by Tricia Ziegler

Come take off your shoes

For where we stand is holy ground.

Come love your neighbor and do good to all around you

For where we stand is holy ground.

Come and respect the planet

For where we stand is holy ground.

Love all that God gave us, for we are all standing on holy ground.

***HYMN #17**

"This Is My Father's World"

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

adapted from Liturgy of Creation

In the beginning God created all things,
and God saw that they were good.

At our beginning, God created us
unique and irreplaceable, loved and wanted by God,
known and treasured by God even before He created us.

In all our new beginnings, God creates something new
so we will seek God in the freshness of this morning, in the laughter of
friends, in the colors of creation, and in this beautiful place.

Lord God, King of Creation,
open our eyes to see your presence, our souls to sense your presence, and
our hearts to love your presence, even here in your creation, and ever
beyond it in eternity.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:11-32

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

Children's Corner will be offered following the Children's Message

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 15:1-2, 7-11

MEDITATION

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: CREATOR GOD

written by Lisa Frenz

**We believe in one God, who is Creator, maker of all we see and all we don't see;
Who is Ruler of the universe: Source of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ, God from God, Light from Light, true
God and true human. He is one with the Creator, the Word made flesh, our Messiah:
Savior of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit, Breath of God moving among us. Who is
one with the Creator; one with the Christ; our Comforter and our Guide: Mentor of
all creation!**

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERING SONG

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #706**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship

**Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as sign of our
intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy
of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world.
Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN**

"O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth"

***COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

adapted from the Third Space blog

**May we always walk gently upon the Earth, in right relationship, nurtured by your love,
open to the wind of the Spirit, taking only what we need, always open to the needs of
others, making choices that bring wellbeing, living with generosity, striving for justice,
honoring all with reverence, reconciling and peacemaking, mindful of those who will
come after, recognizing our proper place as part of your creation.**

**Give us strength and courage, God, for such a radical transformation into your
Kin(g)dom. Amen.**

SENDING MUSIC

Birthdays this week: 08/10 Carol Foltz; 08/11 Kevin Chapman; 08/12 Emily Hoyer;
08/13 Joel Munday; 08/14 Rodney Rotz; 08/15 Kirk Zeger.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Pianist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Cathy Kinton
Lector	Diana Kongkeattikul
Children's Corner	Roxanne Davenport
Bulletin cover	"Beauty of Creation" from the Lewis and Clark Window at the Washington National Cathedral, by Rowan and Irene LeCompte, photographed by Caroline Lena Becker. Art in the Christian Tradition , a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library.

**St. John's Vision**

We are called to love, to learn, to worship and to witness in Christ
as a congregation that welcomes everyone,
and seeks service that will advance God's realm on earth.

St. John's Mission

To grow in love of God and neighbor

Worship Resources:

Call to Worship written by Tricia Ziegler

Prayer of the Day adapted from *Liturgy of Creation*

Affirmation of Faith written by Lisa Frenz

Prayer of Dedication from *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi

"O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth" © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, used by permission

Closing Commission posted on the *Third Space* blog (adapted)

Come Join the Circle

Gordon Webber



1. Come join the cir - cle for Je - sus is call - ing, as part - ners with
2. Now say "hel - lo" to the per - son be - side you - wel - come them
3. O - pen the cir - cle for oth - ers are call - ing us, call - ing from



God in cre - a - tion. All join your hands now let
in - to the cir - cle. Each has a gift or a
past and from fu - ture. Chal - len - ging us with their



all be in - clud - ed for this is a great cel - e - bra - tion.
tal - ent worth shar - ing as part of their call - ing to ser - vice.
cry - for jus - tice as part of this glo - bal com - mu - ni - ty.

REFRAIN



Look a - round and see who's here, look at



all the fac - es. This is the cir - cle of

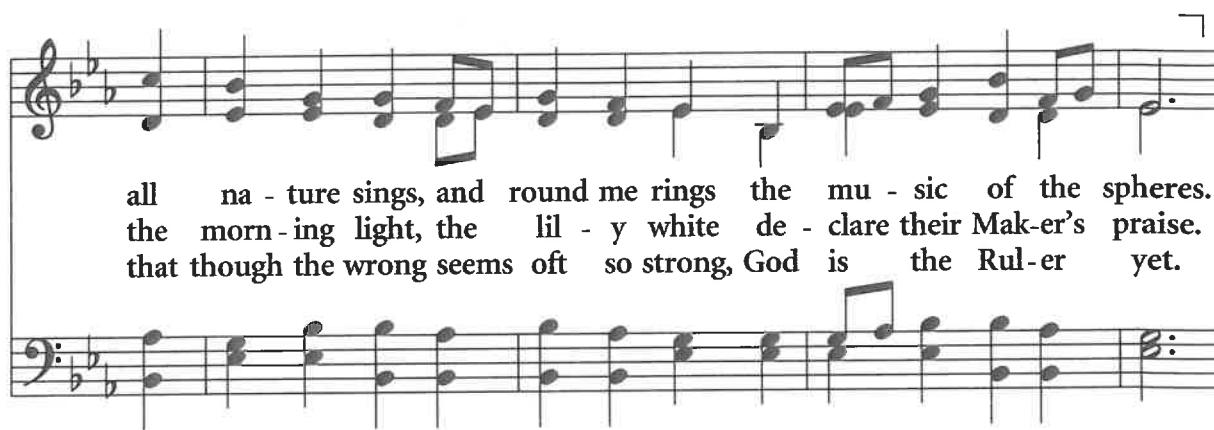


vi - sions and dreams of peo - ple from all times and plac - es.

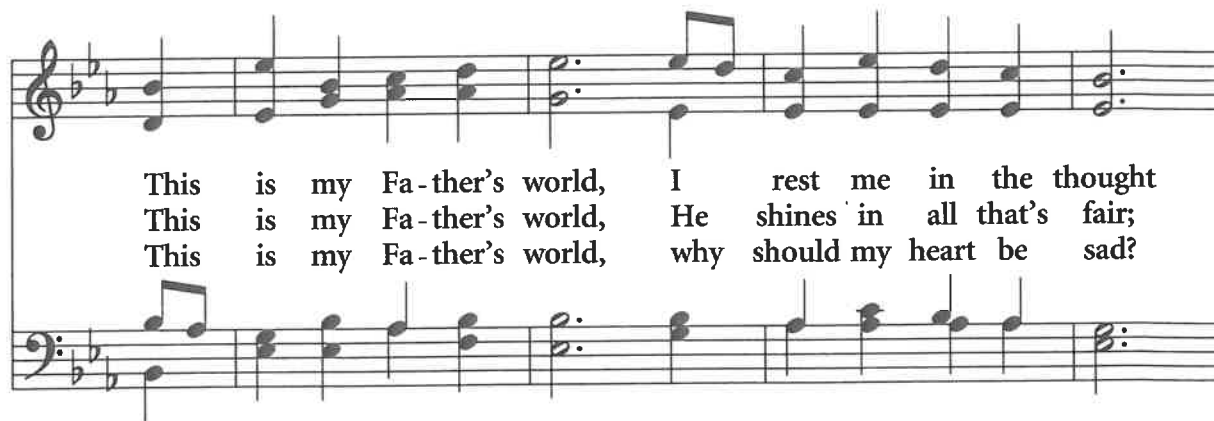
This Is My Father's World



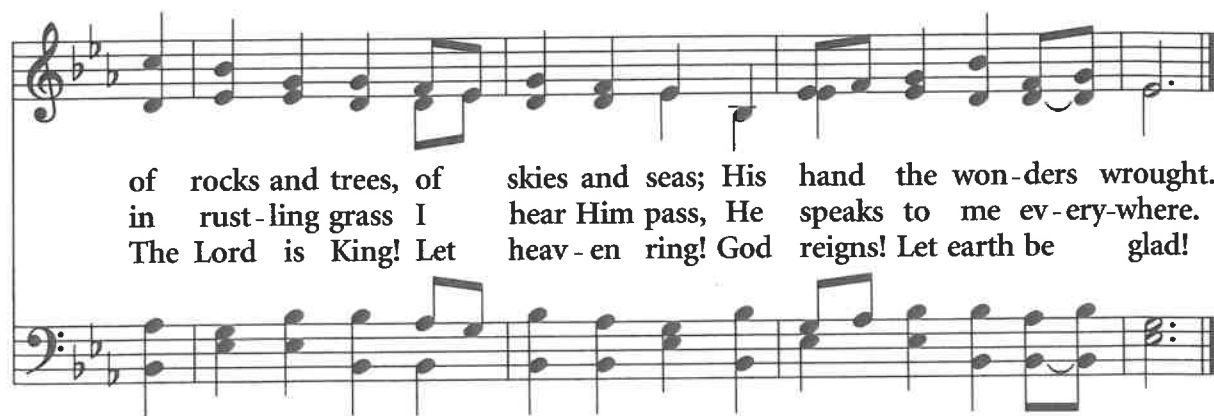
1. This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-tening ears,
 2. This is my Fa-ther's world, the birds their car - ols raise;
 3. This is my Fa-ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get



all na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 the morn - ing light, the lil - y white de - clare their Mak-er's praise.
 that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul-er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world, I rest me in the thought
 This is my Fa-ther's world, He shines in all that's fair;
 This is my Fa-ther's world, why should my heart be sad?



of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the won-ders wrought.
 in rust-ling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev-ery-where.
 The Lord is King! Let heav-en ring! God reigns! Let earth be glad!

O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

FOREST GREEN 8.6.8.6 D

("I Sing the Mighty Power of God";)

O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim; Your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn To offer you their praise.

You made the pets we welcome in — They're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, They offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace These creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace To all pets everywhere.

You made the creatures on each farm; You know the things they need.
May they grow healthy, safe from harm, And safe from human greed.
Just as a shepherd loves the sheep, You know their joy, their pain.
Lord, bless the animals we keep; May all farms be humane.

Your creatures live in every land; They fill the sky and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command To love them tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here — To care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, We offer you our praise.

Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Permission granted for reproduction and use in our worship service.

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette's hymns can be found in the hymnals of the United Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Christian Reformed and United Church of Canada. They have been used by Habitat for Humanity, Church World Service, National Council of Churches, Family Promise, Sojourners, Souper Bowl of Caring and others. A complete list of Carolyn's 300+ hymns can be found at www.carolynshymns.com.

NEWS IN THE PEWS August 9, 2026

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, pastor@sjucc1811.org (641) 260-1868 (cell)
Tonya Schwartz, Office Administrator, manager@sjucc1811.org (717) 263-8593 (office)
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

TODAY:

8:00 pm Bible Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3 Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, August 10

1:30 pm Book Study (Learning to Walk in the Dark - Chapter 1) – Conference Room 111

Tuesday, August 11

10:00 am Camp Summer Wrap up Meeting – Conference Room 111

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

Wednesday, August 12

Church Will Be Closed For Floor Cleaning

11:30 AM Ladies Luncheon – Hoss's Steakhouse

Thursday, August 13

Church Will Be Closed For Floor Cleaning

Friday, August 14

Church Will Be Closed For Floor Cleaning

Sunday, August 16

8:45 am K-12 Faith and Fellowship – Youth Room 206

8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116

8:45 am Upper Room Church School Class – Conference Room 111

10:00 am Sunday Worship- Sanctuary

11:15 am Ice Cream Social After Worship – Fellowship Hall

8:00 pm Bible Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 4 Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Floor Cleaning: Church Building CLOSED Please note that the church building will be inaccessible August 12-14 as we have hallways, nursery school classrooms, and Fellowship Hall professionally cleaned and waxed. We respectfully request that you call or email the church office or Pastor Caroline with any needs you may have and not enter the church building. Thank you for helping us to prepare our space for both a new school year and new program year!

Summer Special Music A sign up is posted on the choir room door for those who would like to help provide special music in worship this summer. This can be singing or playing a musical instrument. Contact Gary Crum to learn more. Thank you for sharing your talents!

Share The Harvest If your garden is overflowing with fruits and/or vegetables, we invite you to share your harvest with others in our church family and community. Donations of homegrown produce may be brought to the Welcome Center in the front lobby at church.

Sweet Treats: Ice Cream Social We are planning an ice cream social for Sunday, August 16 after worship. If you would like to bring homemade ice cream or baked goods, please sign up at the Welcome Center. We'll beat the summer heat by enjoying the A/C and a sweet treat!

Bible and a Beer is an opportunity to talk about our faith in public. Join us on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Trojan Diner at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be August 17th.

Camp Breakfast and Summer Prayer Gatherings Our final summer prayer gathering will be held at St. John's Camp at 9:30 am on Saturday, August 22. A sign-up sheet is at the welcome center. We hope you'll join us for this opportunity to gather in nature!

Youth Pickle Ball Clinic will be held on Sunday, August 23. Meet in Fellowship Hall for lunch at 11:30 am. The pickle ball clinic will be from 12-1:30 pm. RSVP to Roxanne Davenport at youth@sjucc1811.org or Diana Kongkeattikul at deedee80@gmail.com.

Gratitude Sunday on Sunday, August 30 will be a celebration of "This is Us": who we are and sharing what we love about our church! Please share photos in advance or bring them with you. We will have a pancake breakfast at 8:45 in Fellowship Hall, with worship to follow at 10 am.

Monday Afternoon Book Study We will read Chapter 1 in Barbara Brown Taylor "Learning to Walk in the Dark" for our discussion on Monday, August 10th, 1:30 PM in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation.

Franklin Together-Franklin County Reentry Coalition Many of the people we serve are securing safe housing, reconnecting with loved ones, and taking meaningful steps toward stability. To help them feel truly at home, we are asking for your support with essential household, cleaning, and hygiene items. At the welcome center there is a box for donations. Stop by to see the full list of items needed or see the eblast. Monetary gifts toward supplies may also be made at <http://franklintogether.org/donate>.

Fall Quarter First Fruits in August, September and October will support Franklin Together-Franklin County Reentry Coalition, Homeless Matters of Franklin County, and the Fayetteville Fire Department. More information about each of these organizations is included in the Spirit. Thank you for your generosity in serving our neighbors and demonstrating God's love in action.

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday August 16th at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the Book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 4 Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink is included in the weekly e-blast.

July/August Upper Room devotionals are currently available at the Welcome Center. We suggest a donation of \$1 for small print/\$2 for large print copies. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office

Want to Stay in Touch? Contact the Church Office to be added to our email list! You can sign up to receive our regular weekly emails, Diana's Devotionals, and/or be part of the Prayer Chain.