

***DOXOLOGY #607**
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
*Great God, to you we give our thanks; your steadfast love endures forever.
With gratitude we bring our gifts to you.
Bless us and our gifts, that our lives and our resources
may be a source of healing and hope, of joy and justice in our world. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**
CANTICLE OF THE SUN, ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

— Sending —

***HYMN #315** In the Midst of New Dimensions (vv. 1-3, 5)

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**
May the One who creates us, go with and before us,
May the One who saves us, lead us into everlasting life,
May the One who gives us wisdom, guide us in the way of peace.
Alleluia!
Go and join the song of creation, singing out in praise to God.
Go and join the cries of creation, yearning for healing.
Go and work for the healing and wholeness of all the earth.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE All Creatures of Our God and King (arr. Hayes) Joshua Allen
You may sit after the light passes you in the aisle.
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Rev. Michele R. Goff.....Pastor  
Joshua Allen.....Music Director  
Debbi Ricci.....Admin. Assist.



*Serving God,  
Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences*



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**HENDERSON, TX**  
**Creation Care Sunday**  
**3rd Sunday of Easter**  
**April 23, 2023**

(\*) Please rise in body or in spirit  
**Bold Italic Letters** indicate congregational response

— Gathering —

PRELUDE Voluntary on *Dix, For the Beauty of the Earth (Lind)* Joshua Allen  
WELCOME Rev. Michele Goff  
\*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist: Steve Lowe

The heavens declare the glory of God.  
*The firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.*  
The plants and trees show God’s presence.  
*Let us join with creation in praising God.*

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY  
\*HYMN #32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

CONFESSION  
Confident in the mercy of the One  
who made us and saved us,  
let us confess our sin to God and to another.  
*God of life,  
You created us in your image  
to care for one another and for all creation.  
Forgive us for turning away from you,  
ignoring the needs of our neighbors  
and the cries of the earth.  
As the sun brings light and warmth to this earth,  
make us signs of your grace,  
through Christ, our light and life, we pray.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON  
In the water of baptism, God pours out mercy and blessing.  
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace  
as you share that blessing with others and care for this good earth,  
that all creation may declare God’s glory. *Thanks be to God.*  
\*Celtic Alleluia #587  
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

— Word —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION  
FIRST TESTAMENT READING Genesis 2:4b—9 Bible p. 2, LG p. 2  
Hear the word of God for us.

This is the word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*  
SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Song of Solomon 2:10-13 Bible p. 588, LG p. 765  
Hear the word of God for us.  
This is the word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL Mark 4:26-34 Bible p. 36, LG p. 47  
Listen to God’s wisdom for us.  
The wisdom of God for the people of God. *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON Soul, Space, and Soil Rev. Michele Goff  
ASCRPTION OF PRAISE  
All authority and power and dominion to the name that is above all names—  
Jesus Christ our Lord—now and in the age to come. **Amen.**

— Response —  
\*Hymn #771 What is the World Like  
\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH  
*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.26  
Life in Christ is life eternal.  
The resurrection of Jesus is the sign  
that God will consummate the work  
of creation and reconciliation beyond death  
and bring to fulfillment  
the new life begun in Christ.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION  
... Through Christ our Savior, in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and praise to you now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER  
*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING  
OFFERTORY All Things Bright and Beautiful (Rutter) Ensemble