# Westminster Presbyterian Church June 13, 2021

## Tending the New Creation: *Planting with Care*

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" 2 Corinthians 5:17



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## Gathering as New Creation

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship Christine Hansvick

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation! Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

But what does it mean to be a new creation? We yearn for renewal ...

But are we willing to pursue it? And how is our own personal renewal connected to "new creation" in others, in communities, and in the world itself? "Tending" is to lean in the direction of something; to "attend" to something is to nurture it, grow it, build it, . . . pay "attention."

As those baptized into Jesus, may the Spirit so stir the waters of our baptism that we might be newly propelled to journey toward the new creation Christ in-tends for us!

#### **Opening Prayer**

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Creating and Compassionate God, you are the Giver of Life, the One who makes the dry tree green and grows a forest from the smallest seed.

Thank you for forming us, naming us, loving us, and teaching us to share our lives with the world.

Send your Holy Spirit on us now, that we may catch a new vision for your upside down, inside out way, and thus seek to share our lives with others in life-changing ways. Amen.

**Opening Hymn** 

"A Sower Came from Ancient Hills"

GTG #171

#### **Greetings in Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

(Exchange waves and smiles with your siblings in Christ.)

A Story for All Ages

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

### **Proclaiming New Creation**

#### **Prayer for Illumination**

Christine Hansvick

After Pentecost, those who had gathered together were exhorted by the apostle Peter to change their hearts and lives. Today, we who have been baptized in Jesus' name, come again before sacred scripture to listen for the Living Word, Jesus, to speak a word of new creation that we, too, might be renewed and transformed. Come, Holy Spirit, change our hearts and lives, through your Word,

we pray. Amen.

Gospel Reading Mark 4:26-34 Christine Hansvick

Special Music "Garden Song" Randy Huber

**Sermon** "Decently and In Order Subversive, Invasive, Undomesticated"

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

## **Tending New Creation**

**Planting Seeds Practice**Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

**Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer**Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

#### Offering Our Resources & Lives

Christine Hansvick

God works like a gardener--trading in seeds, dirt, fertilizer, sun, and water to grow things of beauty in the world and to bring about the way of shalom, God's wholeness for all, on earth as it is in heaven. As God plants and waters in us new seeds of compassion, courage, and justice, may we respond with gratitude by sharing generously what God has given to us, that our gifts may be used to grow shade and nests for all in need. Your pledges and offerings may be given securely online or by cash or check in the baskets as you enter and exit the church.

## **Blessing New Creation**

**Hymn for Stepping Out** "Faith Begins By Letting Go" GTG # 684

**Benediction** *Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe* 

**Postlude** 

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Thank you to those involved in worship today:
Ushers: Linda Crowe and Suzy Berry
Liturgist: Christine Hansvick
Musician: Steve Johnson Soloist: Randy Huber
Sunday School Volunteer: Hayley Sprague
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

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## Remember in Prayer

Pray for all those touched recently by violence and natural disasters, the healing of national hostility and mistrust, efforts to feed the poor and provide shelter for the homeless in our area, and the following people:

**Sarah Altavater** is requesting prayers for an easy transition back to work and that she will be financially stable.

Lois Baldwin - prayers as she recovers from surgery on her broken wrist.

**Linda Book** – for continued strength to fight the side effects of multiple myeloma cancer.

**Rev. Kim Brinkmeyer** –continued healing and recovery.

**Chuck Burton** – extended family of Lois Rayner, dealing with Cancer issues.

**Pauline Cottingham** – fell and injured her arm and is experiencing pain. Also, her general health is declining.

**Peter Culin** – for Sue Culin's brother-in-law, as he continues with chemotherapy.

**Ginny Hendricks-** friend of Sarah Altvater- Ginny's father passed away from Hernia repair operation. Prayers for Ginny and her family.

**Susan Frost** – Sally Waugaman's daughter, has been placed in Hospice care. Please keep her and the family in your prayers

**Joan Merlo -** friend of Debbie Magliette, diagnosed with Breast Cancer and will be having surgery June 14th.

**Lacey Meade** – daughter of Betty Pratt, undergoing surgery June 2 as part of her cancer treatment. Please pray her surgery is successful and for a rapid healing process.

**Mekenzie** –the 21 year old grandniece of Don & Dee Austin, has a long recovery ahead to heal from broken leg and sprained ankle

**Pat Mossel** – Experienced a break in her scapula (shoulder blade) which was spontaneous and due to her brittle bones from osteoporosis. She is experiencing a great deal of pain, so please pray for healing.

**Rev. Larry Neumark** -friend of Karen & Glenn Dixon who has a recurrence of prostate cancer.

**Betty Pratt** - swelling in her legs greatly reduced as she undergoes massage therapy.

**Janet Waugaman** – Sally Waugaman's daughter, continues to lose mobility due to Multiple System Atrophy.

Our church has a prayer chain of members who will pray for any person you ask. Contact Karen Dixon by phone at 302-858-8968 or email at <u>k\_dixon221@hotmail.com</u>.