

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

August 1st, 2021 | 10:00am  
Live Streaming | In Person

## Sacred Earth, Sacred Work: *Spirit of Compassion*



Photo by [Khadeeja Yasser](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Sacred Earth, Sacred Work is a Worship Design Studio ([www.worshipdesignstudio.com](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com)) series  
It was created by Dr. Marcia McFee in collaboration with the Creation Spirituality Communities Working Group and  
has been lightly adapted to fit our context.

### Path I: Recognizing Inherent Goodness

Prelude

**Gathering and Welcoming**

Rev. Shannon Hanson

God is good!

**All the time!**

And all the time!

**God is good!**

**(choir) Gathered here in the mystery of this hour  
Gathered here in one strong body  
Gathered here in the struggle and the power  
Spirit draw near**

We experience God's loving presence in many ways, all around us and in all places. Let us turn and face the east.

**ALL: Spirit draw near**

Every day is the dawn of new beginnings, and the renewing breath of life.

**ALL: May we be bearers of God's light and share messages of hope.**

We turn to the south.

**ALL: Spirit draw near**

We ask the Spirit to stir compassion in us. And help us to know the power of transformation possible with God.

**ALL: With open hearts, we pray for the energy to share God's love in the world each day.**

We turn to the west.

**ALL: Spirit draw near**

We give thanks to the Source of All Being for the waters of our body and the earth.

**ALL: Wellspring of Divine Wisdom, satisfy our thirst in the parched places in your world. May we be filled up and spill over with your loving presence.**

Leader: We turn to the north.

**ALL: Spirit draw near**

We are grateful for the firm foundation of our Creator's unconditional love.

**ALL: As spirit-in-flesh beings, we pray for God's help to live out love.**

As we face the light of Christ, we see one another. We remember that all is sacred.

**ALL: Garden of Grace, your gifts abound, the sacred signs of your presence are all around. Help us to remember the whole earth is holy ground.**

**ALL: Gathered here in the mystery of this hour  
Gathered here in one strong body  
Gathered here in the struggle and the power  
Spirit draw near**

And all God's people said, "**Amen!**"

**Praising** "Love Divine, All Love's Excelling" *GTG, 366*

**Praying** John Still

Compassionate God, You who know our hearts and love us without condition, create in us desire to see your essence within us so that we might see that in others, and honor your holy presence in all things. We praise you for this place, this day, this people, this planet. And all God's people say, **Amen.**

## **Path II: Befriending the Dark Places**

**Listening** John Still

"The opposite of poverty isn't property. The opposite of both poverty and property is community. For in community we become rich: rich in friends, in neighbors, in colleagues, in comrades, in [siblings]. Together, as a community, we can help ourselves in most of our difficulties. For after all, there are enough people and enough ideas, capabilities and energies to be had. They are only lying fallow, or are stunted and suppressed. So let us discover our wealth; let us discover our solidarity; let us build up communities; let us take our lives into our own hands, and at long last out of the hands of the people who want to dominate and exploit us." - Jurgen Moltmann, *The Source of Life: The Holy Spirit and the Theology of Life*

**Letting Go and Holding with Love** Rev. Dr. Shannon Hanson

. . . Let us say together:

**Breathe in the pain**

**Breathe on out the love**

**May my heart be the place**

**Where this world is changed forever.**

...

Each week we will explore a version of the prayer Jesus taught. This week we encounter a version from writer Parker Palmer. Let us pray together:

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,  
Holy and blessed is your true name.  
We pray for your reign of peace to come,  
We pray that your good will be done,  
Let heaven and earth become one.  
Give us this day the bread we need,  
Give it to those who have none.  
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,  
From each one to each one.  
Lead us to holy innocence  
Beyond the evil of our days —  
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.  
For yours is the power and the glory  
and the mercy:  
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.**

### **Path III: Exclaiming the Divine Creative**

**Bringing Words to Life**

Mark 8:28-34

John Still & Rev. Shannon Hanson

This is a Word of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

All creation is a word of God.

**All creation speaks volumes of God.**

**Sermonizing**

Rev. Shannon Hanson

**Making Something New: An Action for All Ages**

Rev. Shannon Hanson

**Blessing Our Offering**

John Still

**Communion**

Rev. Shannon Hanson

Creator God is with us!

**God is with us now!**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to God!**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One!

**It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

...

we lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving!

[sing] Gathered here, we give praise and thanks to you

Gathered here, we lift our voices

Gathered here, in the glory of your love

Hosanna, now!

...

The narrative of hope is ours to share, repeating together after me...

Christ has died

**Christ has died**

Christ is risen

**Christ is risen**

Christ is living still!

**Christ is living still!**

...

We pray this in the name of your holy dancing three-in-one, Creator, Redeemer,  
Sustainer of all!

*Rev. Hanson will lead the congregation in taking the bread and cup, together, from their seats,  
using the prepackaged communion chalice.*

**Path IV: Embodying Compassion and Power**

**Holding On**

John Still

**Go For It!**

Rev. Shannon Hanson

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Thank you to those involved in worship today:

Ushers: Claudene & Robert Harkins

Liturgist: John Still

Musician: Brad Ucci

Preacher: Rev. Shannon Hanson

### **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:*

**Jay Carlson, Clare MacDonald's son-in-law**, and father of 2 young daughters, suffered a blood clot in his head. He has been released from hospital and is slowly recovering with the help of neuro physical therapy.

**Ed Carter** (102) is under hospice care in the skilled nursing unit at The Moorings. He is comfortable and appreciates our prayers and in-person visits by Covid-vaccinated friends.

**Linda Book** continues her battle with multiple myeloma cancer.

**Chuck Burton, extended family of Lois Rayner**, is dealing with issues related to cancer.

**Pauline Cottingham** is doing well, despite the general decline in her health.

**Peter Cullin, Sue Culin's brother-in-law**, is undergoing

chemotherapy.

**Honey Hill, Sue Cullin's step-niece**, is awaiting the results of a biopsy.

**Lacey Meade, Betty Pratt's daughter**, completed her last round of chemotherapy.

**Betty Pratt** is feeling better, though she has some memory issues.

**Greg Solt, friend of Karen and Glenn Dixon**, who has a mass on his pancreas. He and his family appreciate our prayers for their courage, as they confront the likely diagnoses of pancreatic and liver cancer.

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

**John Witmer** is recovering at home following heart surgery, and is working to regain his strength and energy.

**Our church has a prayer chain of members who will pray for any person you ask. Contact Leslie Marsh by phone at 302-542-9927 or email at [cmarshjr@verizon.net](mailto:cmarshjr@verizon.net)**