

Westminster Presbyterian Church

June 27, 2021

Tending the New Creation: *Healing Old Wounds*

“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



Photo by Mohamed Nohassi on Unsplash

Gathering as New Creation

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Brian Harron

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

Dancing Light, shed light on the corners of our souls, where aches linger and anger builds like mold, where memories ferment and self-pity licks its wounds.

Dancing Light, brighten the shadows deep within, where lies are hidden and criticism awaits its prey, where contempt lurks and distrust rustles underfoot.

Dancing Light, shine upon the windows of our hearts, where love should live and forgiveness be always ready, where hope is bright and praise ever lifts our tongues. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“The Woman Hiding in the Crowd”

GTG #178

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

Brian Harron

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 5:25-34

Brian Harron

Special Music

Glenn Pruitt

Sermon

“New Creation Faith”

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Tending New Creation

Gestures of Openness

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Generous God of abundant hope, *(arms in orans position)*

We thank you for new life *(arms moving upward and together in front of body)*

That is ours as your people. *(hands crossed over heart)*

Open our hearts to your love, that we may be stirred to love others. *(left arm extends outwards to the side, waist level)*

Open our lives to your grace, that we may live graciously in your world. *(right arm extends outward to the side, waist level)*

When fear makes our lives small and cramped *(bring hands together rapidly; clenching tightly)*

Expand our hope in your realm of justice and mercy. *(arms down, spread apart at side, palm facing down)*

Empower us to live courageously the faith to which we are called, *(arms to the side, flexing biceps)*

Journeying with you in the pathways of compassion *(arms raised in front of body, hands palms up, one on top of the other)*

That lead us to an open and expansive life. Amen. *(back to orans position)*

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Offering Our Resources & Lives

Brian Harron

When we tend to our relationship with God, we connect with the power of new life and healing. As we move confidently toward Jesus, knowing his very presence in our lives can end the pain that we've carried around for a long time, we find ourselves opening up more of ourselves. Healing creates space for generous giving in service and compassion. That which has held us back can be released as we share our resources of time, talent, and money. The invitation in our community is to steward not only your money but also your very life. 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

"Healer of Our Every Ill"

GTG # 795

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Postlude

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Thank you to those involved in worship today:

Ushers: Mary Boyer and John Still

Liturgist: Brian Harron

Musician: Judy Moore Soloist: Glenn Pruitt

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Opening Prayer for Healing by Rachel Hackenberg from *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*, ed. by Maren C. Tirabassi and Maria I. Tirabassi

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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 Altavater- Ginny’s father passed away from Hernia repair operation. Prayers for Ginny and her family.

Susan Frost – Sally Waugaman’s daughter, who was placed on Hospice care, has passed away. Please keep Sally and the family in your prayers as they mourn Susan’s death.

Lacey Meade – daughter of Betty Pratt, is home recovering from her surgery. Prayers for continued healing and recovery.

Joan Merola- Surgery was a success, waiting for results

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.

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 k_dixon221@hotmail.com.