

Thanks to Cathy Draper for providing today's beautiful flowers that you see in the sermon video.

Today's sermon is the first of the *Sermon on the Mount* series, which will continue up to the first day of advent on November 29. A Sermon Series outline is provided at the end of the sermon notes, and also under the *Reflections* tab on the Maplewood website: www.maplewoodpres.org.

CALL TO WORSHIP—based on Genesis 1

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.**

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 the beautiful place from
where each of us worships.**

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

Amen.

HYMN *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings.

[Refrain]

The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky.

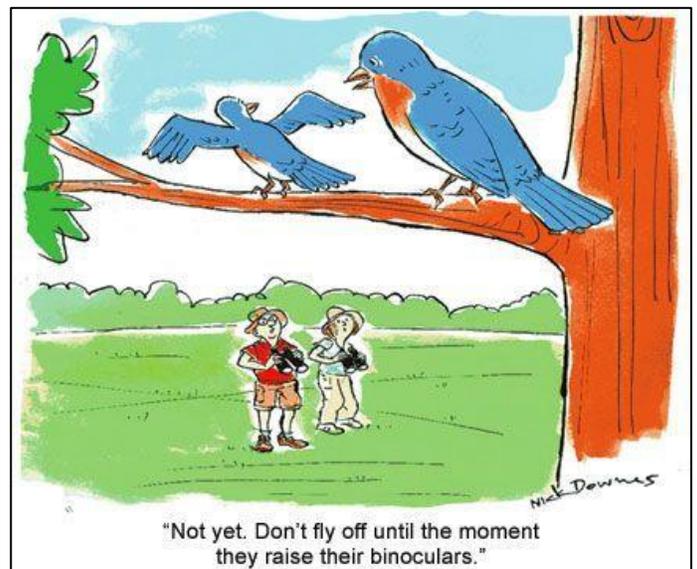
[Refrain]

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them, every one.

[Refrain]

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

[Refrain]



"Not yet. Don't fly off until the moment
they raise their binoculars."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When in our excesses we consume more than our share while others go with basic needs unmet: Forgive us, merciful God.

When we are blinded by our affluence and fail to reach out in care and concern: Forgive us, merciful God.

When we are overwhelmed by desires to acquire and consume more than we need: Forgive us, merciful God.

When possessions cloud our view of you and your gracious love: Forgive us, merciful God.

(time for silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

You are loved.
Love is the Way.
When you love God, you love others.
When you truly lay down your life for others, you lay down your life for God.
Give yourself to the Lord by serving others.
Know that in God's love, through the grace of Jesus Christ, there is forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation.
Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF PEACE

Pray the peace of Christ for family and loved ones, neighbors and acquaintances, friends and enemies, people and places around the world.

RESPONSE *Seek Ye First*

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek and you shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 6:24-34

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!



MESSAGE **Sermon on the Mount: First Things First (and Don't Worry)**

HYMN *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

God, whose giving knows no ending,
From your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door.
Gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
Gain through powers Your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray for all in need this day, and for our world,
especially at this time of coronavirus pandemic...

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit ever more;
Praise triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

**We offer our gifts to you, Lord,
with grateful, cheerful hearts.
Thank you that you meet our needs on the journey,
providing what we need when we need it.
Trusting you,
we can share what we have with others,
and we do this joyfully today,
in Jesus' name, Amen.**

HYMN *God of Our Life*

God of our life, through all the circling years,
we trust in you;
in all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
your hand we view.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
we own your mercies, Lord, which never fail.

God of the past, our times are in your hand;
with us abide.
Lead us by faith, to hope's true Promised Land;
be now our guide.
With you to bless, the darkness shines as light,
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.

God of the coming years, thro' paths unknown
we follow you;
when we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone;
our faith renew.
Be now for us in life our daily bread,
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.



BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you,
The love of God surround you,
And the Holy Spirit keep you,
That you may live in faith,
Abound in hope,
And grow in love,
Now and forevermore.
And all of God's people said, Amen!

*"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
- John 20:21*

