

Psalm 104: 1-9

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty,

²wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

³you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind,

⁴you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

⁵You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.

⁶You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

⁷At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

⁸They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys to the place that you appointed for them.

⁹You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

The Word of life

THANKS BE TO GOD

And your very flesh shall be a great poem.

Walt Whitman

We are God's work of art....

Ephesians 2

Better than any argument is to rise at dawn and pick dew-wet red berries in a cup

Wendell Berry

Here's something I love.

At the Nelson, you can get right up to the Van Gough and the other impressionists with those thick brush marks on the canvas. You can look at those brush marks and think to yourself "Van Gough actually did this, this is the work of a master. I'm looking right at it, I see the texture and the paint laid on the canvas by a master painter."

I had a similar breath catching moment at Mount Vernon years ago when my folks and I took a vacation to Washington DC. I was in high school and got to share in the driving of our new 72 Pontiac Firebird! At Mount Vernon you can look at papers/letters written by Washington himself. Through a glass case this time----- but you can get right up close and the sense of Washington as a real person is palpable.

I have a pipe and a baseball belonging to a grandfather I never knew.

A beautiful framed set of nice quilt squares cross stitched by Kathy's mom hangs in our family room. I have a painting of my dad's in my office.

Walt Graves, of blessed memory, built this pulpit and this table and the choir railings here.

The sisters up at Clyde have a relic chapel, three times as big as our sanctuary, with tiny pieces of the bodies of saints both well-known and obscure... .fingernail pieces or locks of hair. Also tiny swatches of fabric from their clothing.

We cherish these items, whether of great people or beloved family members, because they provide a connection somehow, a tangible connection with a person we wish were still here or we wish we could have known in history. O to have been able to watch Van Gough paint, or George Washington at a desk, writing.

But the natural world is quite another thing. In the natural world, earth and the universe beyond, we are privileged to watch God create in real time, in every second of time. We are privileged to experience, to look very closely, and even touch all manner of phenomenon emerging in real time from the CREATOR OF ALL CREATIVITY, the ARTIST OF ALL ARTISTRY, THE COMPOSER OF COMPOSITION.

The turning of leaves right now. The shortening of days. The migration of birds. The frost comes and the flowers fade. But even as winter advances, so will spring with its greening and blooming. THE COMPOSER OF COMPOSITION is at work.

In my hand I can hold a potato, an apple, a pumpkin, a gourd, created by the Creator of all Creativity. I'm not actually allowed to touch the Van Gough painting. But I can hold an apple in my hand. I can even bite into it and taste it, and savor it and digest it and....bless the Lord o my soul, now it's actually ME that God is making. ME being created in real time, in every moment. From material 14 billion years old.

Bless the Lord O my soul, now it's ME composing a sermon, assembling thoughts, pondering the Psalm which itself was composed by a person doing what I am doing right now, being

creative, and you are listening in real time to something created by me which is creating thoughts and questions and wishes and aspirations and hopefully some wonder and awareness in YOU concerning the privilege of this moment, the grace of this moment, the beauty of this moment.

We are the gorgeous masterful brush strokes of the ARTIST OF ALL ARTISTRY and we are being applied to the canvas right now. And again right now. Every beat of the heart. Every breath in and out, another brush stroke. Every breeze and every chirping of a bird a brush stroke, a note on the page of a 14 billion year old symphony.

2 month old Everett my grandson is already expressing himself right? At some point he will begin to sense that he is being expressed, that he is an expression, a brush stroke of inestimable beauty and significance. His grandfather will be sure to tell him that.

Far more amazing and holy and precious than gazing at the art, or hearing the music, is realizing that we ARE THE ART. We ARE THE MUSIC.

Bless the Lord o my soul.

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD-GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

October 21, 2018

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Blessings on the day

BORN OF NIGHT

Blessings on the earth

WEDDED TO HEAVEN

Blessings on our bodies

ALIVE WITH SPIRIT

Blessings on our minds

FILLED WITH DREAMS

Blessings on our hearts

OPENED BY LOVE

Lighting of the Candles

"Blessed are the clear in heart..."

Matthew 5

For the Music of Creation (Handout)

We Welcome One Another as Christ

"Create in Me" NOCC Choir

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

"Earth, teach me stillness..."

Ute Prayer

Children's Circle

All children thru 5th grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own "Worship and Wonder" time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

May the coming of the Holy Spirit be upon our lives

MAY THE HEARING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE IN OUR EARS, AMEN

THE LESSON PSALM 104: 1-9

The Meditation "Bless the Lord O My Soul" Rev. Rob Carr

Almighty God, you have created the universe with such splendor, that all of it rises up to praise you.

We, the people you have called to be your own, join with sun and moon, stars and mountains, in singing hymns of glory to your wonderful name. Amen.

Silent and spoken personal prayers of thanksgiving confession, intercession

The Offering

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

Come Away With Me (Handout)

Gracious God, Source of all blessings, you have been extravagant in your generosity
YOU HAVE PLANTED WITHIN US THE SEEDS OF HOPE AND SPREAD BEFORE US
THIS FEAST OF ALL POSSIBILITY
Words cannot express our gratitude
MAY WE EMBODY OUR THANKS WITH ACTS OF COMPASSION FOR ONE ANOTHER

Welcome to the Table
The Words of Institution

Lord Jesus Christ restore us to our rightful minds
YOU CROWN US WITH FORGIVENESS AND WE ARE AMAZED
Holy God to you we come
A PEOPLE RENEWED, FORGIVEN, SURRENDERED

The Communion Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.

The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation
Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option
Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

Where the Spirit of the Lord Is (Handout)

Strong is the love embracing us
AND FAITHFUL OUR GOD FROM MORNING TO NIGHT---AMEN

TO OUR GUESTS----WELCOME!

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE
WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY

We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available before and after worship in the Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via Facebook and these websites

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THIS WEEK

Today Following Worship---NOCC Youth to Red Wok
Monday 6PM Troop 900
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group
Tuesday 1230PM Women's Bible Group
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900
Wednesday 830AM-3PM Interfaith Conference at Tall Oaks
Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry
Saturday 7PM Movie Group at the Nelsons'
Next Sunday Trunk or Treat with Chili! 5-7PM

UPCOMING

TALL OAKS GALA AT ARROWHEAD---JOIN US!

It's time to RESERVE your seat for the 2018 Tall Oaks Masquerade Gala! The evening of November 9th at Arrowhead Stadium North Club will be full of fellowship, food, auctions, and the magic of whimsical disguise. Your presence is primary to the support of a unique ministry and the future evolution of Tall Oaks for children and the community. Plan on having a fun night! Don't forget your mask! Don't forget to sign up!

Friday November 16 STRUM at Westport Presbyterian Arts Series 12noon
November 18 NOCC Community Thanksgiving Pot Luck Following Worship
December 2 Congregational Meeting Following Worship
December 9 5PM Talent Show

KEVIN KELLEY NEEDS STUDENTS

Rob has been training a cohort of people this year to present workshops on Centering Prayer. Our former beloved seminary intern Kevin Kelly is in the cohort. After several training experiences and lots of reading, Kevin is ready for his final test. He needs to do a three hour presentation on centering prayer to a group of willing folks while Rob observes. Would you be willing to be part of his "test audience?" Saturday February 9 2019 9AM to noon at NOCC. Our centering prayer "veterans" are welcome to attend plus people who have decided it's time to learn what centering prayer is all about. Even if you are not interested in centering prayer but want to be helpful to Kevin----please come. Contact Rob with your interest. Child care available if needed.

SOWING A SEED-GROWING OUR VISION 2016-2018

Our campaign prayer: We want what you want God. Open each heart and mind to Christ, our Light. Guide us together by your Holy Spirit, to trust in your will, amen.