



The birds have vanished into the sky,  
and now the last cloud drains away.  
We sit together, the mountain and me,  
until only the mountain remains.

*LiPo*

## CHURCH ON THE FARM

Aug. 21, 2011

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### Prelude

Sopa Sol

*Spirit Friends* (written by Frances Miller)

David Armstrong, Frances Miller, Jason Mundok, Daryl Snider

### Lighting of the Peace Candle

*Peace Before Us*

### Call to Worship

### Hymn

*Here in This Place*

## I. NATURE AS TEACHER

### Readings

"Bone" (by Mary Oliver, from *Why I Wake Early*)

Cheryl Lehman

"o purple finch" (by e.e. cummings, from *73 Poems*)

Joseph Gascho

"The Heron" (by Wendell Berry, from *Collected Poems*)

Greg Newswanger

### Prayer

Earth teach me stillness **as the grasses are stilled with light.**

Earth teach me suffering **as old stones suffer with memory.**

Earth teach me humility **as blossoms are humble with beginning.**

Earth teach me caring **as the mother who secures her young.**

Earth teach me courage **as the tree which stands alone.**

Earth teach me limitation **as the ant which crawls on the ground.**

Earth teach me freedom **as the eagle which soars in the sky.**

Earth teach me resignation **as the leaves which die in the fall.**

Earth teach me regeneration **as the seed which rises in the spring.**

Earth teach me to forget myself **as melted snow forgets its life.**

Earth teach me to remember kindness **as dry fields weep in the rain.**

(from Ute prayer)

### Hymn

*God of the Earth, the Sky, the Sea*

### Children's Song Time

"The Earth is Our Mother"

Louise Ranck

## II. NATURE AS REFUGE

### Readings

Excerpt from Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankel  
"The Peace of Wild Things" (by Wendell Berry, from Collected Poems)

Carmen Napolitan  
Linda Berger

### Prayer

All day I watch the sky changing from blue to blue.

**For You are forever  
and I am like a single day that passes.**

All day I think thanks for this world,  
for the rocks and the tips of the waves,  
for the tupelos and the fading roses.  
For the wind.

**For You are forever  
while I am like a single day that passes.**

You are the heart of the cedars of Lebanon  
and the fir called Douglas,  
the bristlecone, and the willow.

**It's close to hopeless,  
for what I want to say the red-bird  
has said already, and better, in a thousand trees.**

The white bear, lifting one enormous paw, has said it better.

*by Mary Oliver from More Beautiful Than the Honey Locust Tree are the Words of the Lord, Thirst*

### Hymn

*The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young*

### Offertory

"Sopa Sol"

*It's So Beautiful* (written by Daryl Snider)

## III. NATURE AS GIVER

### Readings

Excerpt from Moby Dick by Herman Melville  
"When I am Among the Trees" (by Mary Oliver, from Thirst)

Joseph Gascho  
Cheryl Lehman

### Prayer

**I find you, Lord, in all things and in all  
my fellow creatures, pulsing with your life;**

as a tiny seed you sleep in what is small  
and in the vast you vastly yield yourself.

**The wondrous game that power plays with things  
is to move in such submission through the world:**

groping in roots and growing thick in trunks  
and in treetops like a rising from the dead.

*by Rainer Maria Rilke from Book of Hours: Love Poems to God*

### Hymn

*There is a Balm in Gilead*

## IV. NATURE AS HEALER

### Readings

“Gray Jays” (by Terry Tempest Williams, from Refuge)

Linda Berger

“The Poet with His Face in His Hands” (by Mary Oliver from New and Selected Poems)

Louise Ranck

### Responsive Reading

My help is in the mountain where I take myself to heal the earthly wounds that I carry.

**I find a rock with sun on it and a stream where the water runs gentle and the trees which one by one give me company.**

So I must stay for a long time until I have grown from the rock.

**And the stream is running through me and I cannot tell myself from one tall tree.**

Then I know that nothing touches me nor makes me run away.

**My help is in the mountains that I take away with me.**

*by Nancy Wood*

### Reflections

Susan Gascho-Cooke

### Sharing/Prayer

### Announcements/Introduction of Visitors

### Hymn

*The Peace of the Earth be With You*

### Benediction

Every morning I want to kneel down on the golden

cloth of the sand and say

some kind of musical thanks for

the world that is happening again – another day-

from the shawl of the wind coming out of the

west to the firm green

flesh of the melon lately sliced open and

eaten, its chill and ample body

flavored with mercy. I want

to be worthy of—what? Glory? Yes, unimaginable glory.

O Lord of melons, of mercy, though I am

not ready, nor worthy, I am climbing toward you.

*by Mary Oliver from Thirst*

Worship Leader—Deb Napolitan

Song Leader—Ron Umble

Greeters—Darrell & Sylvia Yoder

Ushers—Zita Angelo & Phil Kreider