

Saving Presence

An internet meme circulating a few years ago chided its audience, “If God didn’t send Jesus into the world to condemn it, I doubt God sent you to.” It’s hard to refrain from judgment, especially when so many social pressures tempt us to judge ourselves as right and everyone else as wrong. John’s gospel puts such competitions to rest: God loves everyone and everything—the whole world, all of creation, every person and part of the entire cosmos, all that is.

At first take, we might be baffled that we lift up the cross as the place where God’s expansive love is so significantly shown for us. But through Christ’s crucifixion, death, and resurrection, God works to unravel all the violence that leads to things like crucifixion in the first place. In the cross, God’s presence is with us: God has taken on all of our human suffering so we can know that Christ’s loving presence is with us when we are hurting too. God accompanies us through hardships. God brings new life in the midst of death! This is the mysterious power of the cross.

Every time God gathers us for holy communion, we remember that night when Jesus faced these hardest moments. Before being lifted up on the cross, he broke bread and shared wine and promised to remain with us always. Jesus continues to be with us in the holy meal even all these centuries later: in bread and wine, for us, lifted high. Indeed, this is the presence we need. It is the presence that sustains us at work, at school, at play. It is the presence that makes grace real. It is the presence that saves us from sin and death, always.



*In order that the world
might be saved through him*

JOHN 3:17

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

Opening Dialogue: (read responsively)

Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God & the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

Congregation: Teach us your ways, O God.

(P): Take knowledge rather than gold, for all that you may desire cannot compare with wisdom.

(C): Teach us your ways, O God.

(P): Know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

(C): Teach us your ways, O God.

Prayer of the Day: (please stand)

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Sermon & Blessing of the Backpacks

Hymn: NCH #2, This is My Father's World

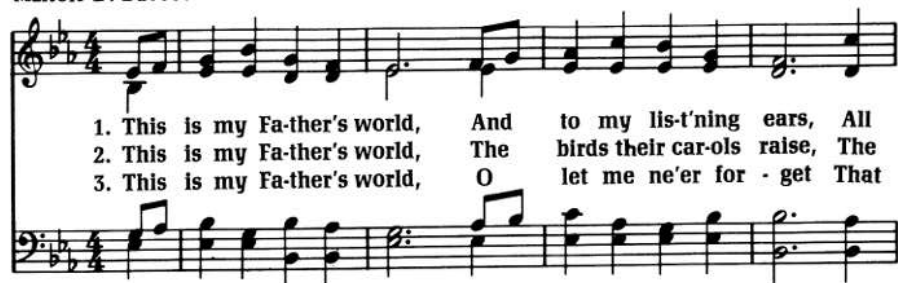
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This Is My Father's World

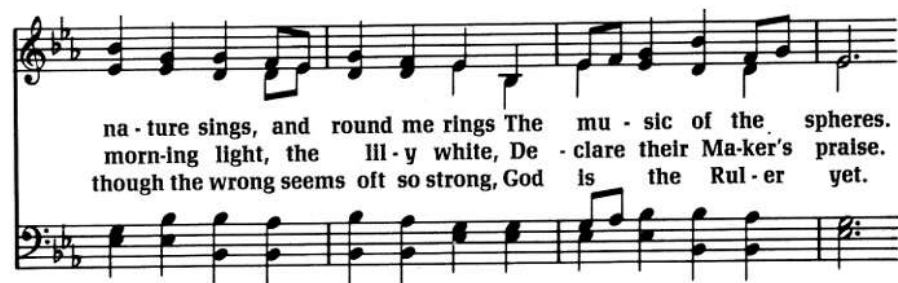
TERRA BEATA

Maltbie D. Babcock

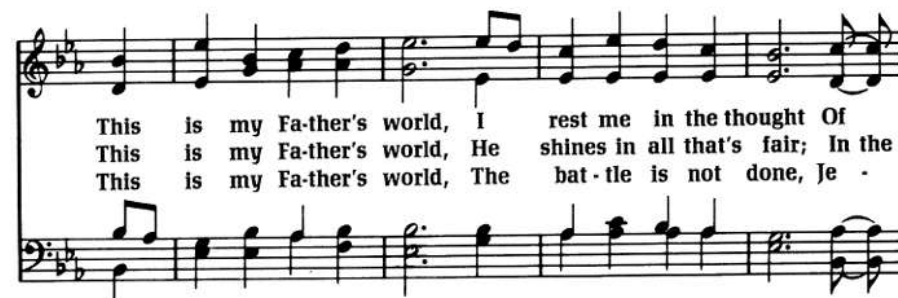
Traditional English Melody



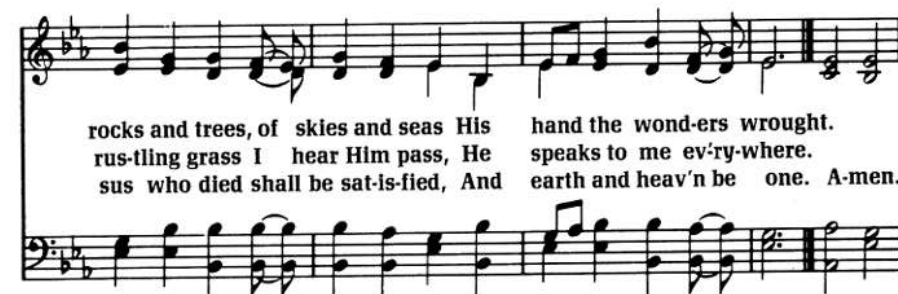
1. This is my Fa-ther's world, And to my lis-t'ning ears, All
2. This is my Fa-ther's world, The birds their car-ols raise, The
3. This is my Fa-ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get That



na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres.
morn-ing light, the ill - y white, De - clare their Ma-ker's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world, I rest me in the thought Of
This is my Fa-ther's world, He shines in all that's fair; In the
This is my Fa-ther's world, The bat - tle is not done, Je -



rocks and trees, of skies and seas His hand the wond-ers wrought.
rus-tling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev-ry-where.
sus who died shall be sat-is-fied, And earth and heav'n be one. A-men.

The First Reading:

First Reading

Numbers 21:4b-9

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned

by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Psalmody: (spoken in unison)

Psalm

Psalm 98:1-4; tone 7



Sing a new song to the LORD,
who has done ¹ marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm
have ¹ won the victory.
²O Lord, you have made ¹ known
your victory,
you have revealed your
righteousness
in the sight ¹ of the nations.

³You remember
your steadfast love and faithfulness
to the ¹ house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth
have seen the victory
¹ of our God.
⁴Shout with joy to the LORD,
¹ all you lands;
lift up your voice,
re-¹ **joyce, and sing.**

The Second Reading:

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The Gospel:

Gospel

John 3:13-17

[Jesus said:] “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17^a "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Sermon

Communion:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

(P): Lift up your hearts

(C): We lift them up to the Lord.

(P): Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

(C): It is right to give our thanks & praise.

The Words of Institution: (Please stand)

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer: (spoken in unison)

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass 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 and ever, Amen.

Distribution of Communion

Prayer

Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn, NCH #578, *America the Beautiful*

America, the Beautiful

578

MATERNA

Katherine L. Bates

Samuel A. Ward

1. O beau-ti-ful for spa-clous skies, For am-ber waves of grain,
 2. O beau-ti-ful for pll-grim feet, Whose stern, im-pas-sioned stress.
 3. O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved in lib-er-at-ing strife,
 4. O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream That sees be-yond the years

For pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties A-bove the fruit-ed plain!
 A thor-ough-fare for free-dom beat A-cross the wil-der-ness!
 Who more than self their coun-try loved, And mer-cy more than life!
 Thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, Un-dimmed by hu-man tears!

A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed His grace on thee,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-'ry flaw,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed His grace on thee,

And crown thy good with broth-er-hood From sea to shin-ing sea!
 Con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, Thy lib-er-ty in law!
 Till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness And ev-'ry gain di-vine!
 And crown thy good with broth-er-hood From sea to shin-ing sea!

Postlude

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Lunch immediately following in the
 multi-purpose room

*The flowers & bulletins are given to the honor & glory of God,
 & in memory of Lillian Engle, by her family.*



Holy Cross Day commemorates the discovery of the True Cross and celebrates its significance as a symbol of Jesus' redemption. The holiday highlights the cross's centrality in Christian faith, representing God's power, wisdom, and love, and reminding followers to follow Jesus by bearing their own crosses.

Discovery of the True Cross:

The day marks the discovery of the cross of Jesus in Jerusalem by Saint Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine.

Dedication of Churches:

The date also commemorates the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, built over the sites of Jesus' crucifixion and burial.

Lutheran Emphasis:

Martin Luther emphasized that "we preach Christ crucified," meaning the cross is the decisive point of decision and the ultimate self-disclosure of God.

A Symbol of Redemption:

The cross symbolizes the world's redemption and the ultimate act of love where Jesus laid down his life for humanity.

A School of Wisdom:

For Lutherans, the cross is seen as the root of wisdom, the throne of love, and the means by which the world is crucified to the believer.

A Call to Discipleship:

Bearing the cross means dying to sin and the corrupt desires of the old self to follow Christ, a concept rooted in Holy Baptism.



Gordon D. Auman
June 18, 1940 - September 3, 2025
Lebanon

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Gordon D. "Chub" Auman, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend, who departed this life on September 3, 2025, at the age of 85 at Celebration Villa of Lebanon. Born on June 18, 1940, to the late Earl and Martha (Greenthal) Auman, Gordon lived a life full of service and dedication, both to his family and his country. Gordon proudly served in the United States Air Force from April 16, 1962, until his discharge on April 7, 1966, where he achieved the rank of E-3. After his military service, he became an active member of the Legion, serving as the Honor Guard and Commander of Richland Legion Post 880. His commitment to his fellow veterans and community was evident in all he undertook. Gordon shared a cherished life with his beloved wife, Doris (Layser) Auman. The family consists of...Linda Kurtz Ream and husband Brian Ream, grandchildren Debra Ream Buffington, Darryl Ream, Michael Ream, and Marcia Ream Glucksnis. He was preceded in death by son Larry Kurtz; Gordon was a proud grandfather to Larry's sons, Matthew Kurtz and Joel Kurtz, and delighted in being a great-grandfather to several great-grandchildren and a great great grand-daughter. He was preceded in death also by grandchild Mitchell Kurtz. Gordon's passions included horse racing, bowling and hunting, spending time with family, activities that brought him much joy and camaraderie throughout his life. He will be remembered for his one of a kind spirit, his unwavering love for his family, country and his contributions to his community. A Funeral Service will be held in his honor at Millcreek Lutheran Church, Newmanstown on September 11, 2025, at 10:30 AM, with visitation beginning at 10:00 AM. Following the service, burial will take place at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery at 1:00 PM. He will receive the honors he deserves as a veteran on this solemn occasion. Memorial contributions may be made to Millcreek Lutheran Church, 221 N Sheridan Rd, Newmanstown, PA 17073 or American Cancer Society, <https://www.cancer.org/> For more information, to offer online condolences or to order flowers, please go to www.christmansfuneralhome.com



221 North Sheridan Road
PO Box 399
Newmanstown, PA 17073
www.millcreeklutheran.com

Church Office (610) 589-2570
secretary@millcreeklutheran.com

For pastoral emergencies, please contact
Jennifer Rosengrant, 717-228-8857

Our Mission

Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and ourselves.

Sunday, September 14, 2025

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at **10:15 AM**. Just dial **717-628-0125**. You will hear a message welcoming you to Millcreek. At that point you are connected to our church sound system, so just stay on the line. You may also watch the service later, on You Tube.



Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

BLOOD DRIVE: will be Thursday, September 18, 2025. Please see the enclosed yellow & white inserts for information.

TOYS FOR TOTS: This year marks the 10th anniversary of our annual toy drive, held in honor of my sister, Stacey, who was tragically killed in an act of domestic violence. Toys for Tots was her favorite charity, and we continue this tradition to keep her legacy alive! My hope is to make this year our biggest toy drive yet! After 10 years, I hope to pass along this tradition to Jordan and my nephews, and I hope you'll consider donating to this charity in your own way. All collected toys will be given directly to the children of Queen Anne's County. Please feel free to ship toys directly to our home throughout the months of September and October to add to our drive. All toys can be mailed to: 321 Narnia Drive S, Grasonville, MD 21638. Toys can also be brought to the church & will be transported by Stephanie Seldomridge. Thank you for helping to keep Stacey's legacy alive! ~ Mike, Lindsay & Jordan

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: We will be participating in Samaritan's Purse- Operation Christmas Child this year by filling shoe boxes for children who would otherwise not receive any gifts at Christmas. There are brochures and labels in the narthex with instructions. (Please read them carefully as there are restrictions as to what can be included in the shoe boxes.) There are also pre-printed shoe boxes that can be assembled, or you can wrap a shoe box of your own, just make sure the lid can be opened. Finished shoe boxes should be placed on the table in the multi-purpose room. If you are including the shipping charges, it is \$10 per box, payable to the Samaritan's Purse (put your check in an envelope inside your box) or you can refer to the instructions in the brochure to donate online. The deadline for completing boxes is Sunday, November 9, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Martin (610-589-5505) or Pat Ontkos (610-589-4350).

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS FOR 2025 are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. There are several openings available. Flowers-\$30, Bulletins- \$10

PASTORAL EMERGENCY CONTACT: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Council President Jen Rosengrant (717-228-8857) and she will work with the pastor on call.

SENIOR CHOIR: The first meeting of the MLC choir will be Wednesday, Sept. 17th at 630pm in the choir room. No contracts or gimmicks... come once or often, all are welcome!

TOP OF THE HILL CLEAN-UP UPDATE: Six "Millcreekers" worked at the church inside & out on Sept. 6th to get things in shape for the fall/winter season. There are many areas at the church that need an annual cleaning as these areas are not cleaned on a regular basis. Ten additional people gave their time independently as it fit into their schedule. Thank you everyone who helped with this project- your service was greatly appreciated. Should anyone feel there is an area that needs attention & you are willing to take it on, please let me know & we can work out an arrangement with a key. Thanks again! ~Nancy Deiter

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday Sept. 14- Slip n Slide into Sunday School! We will have an outdoor service with Pastor Terhune and congregation picnic to follow.
- Sunday Sept. 21- 9am Sunday School; 10:15am communion service with Pastor Joel Risser (sanctuary)
- Sunday Sept. 28- 9am Sunday School; 10:15am service with Pastor Joel Risser (sanctuary)
- Sunday October 5- Blessing of the Pets parking lot service (multi-purpose room if it rains)
- Sunday October 12- Harvest Home- Gifts of food & money will be collected for donation.
- Sunday October 26- Trunk or Treat 1-3pm for community in church parking lot
- Sunday November 16- Sunday Fun Day 1-3pm and Service Project for community youth.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS: We are looking for one more member of our congregation to share the role of Sunday School teacher for our pre-K/kindergarten class for the upcoming year. If you are interested, please see Nikki Johnson for details.

MLC YEARBOOK PHOTOS: If you have photos from any church events and would like to submit them for the yearbook, please email them to Jen M. This is a standing request & photos can be submitted any time during the year. Including names of people, places, etc will also be helpful. Yearbook ideas are always welcome!

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS:

Paul Zimmerman
139 Sweetwater Lane
Newmanstown, PA 17073

LIFT PROGRAM: If you are 40+ and interested in an 8week fitness program, the LIFT Program will be held at Stone Ridge Yoga Studio Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1-2pm. This program is run by Penn State Extension. See flyers in the Narthex or talk to Deb T. for more information.

PRAYER LIST: If you asked for someone to be put on the prayer list, please tell the church secretary when our prayers have been answered so this list can be kept current. For non-member requests, please contact Jen M. with your requests by noon Wednesday each week. secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or call: 610-589-2570.

MILLCREEK MEMBERS: Peg Auman, Bryan Breidigam, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Frank Hoffman, Abbie Keath, The Leibig Family, Barbara Potteiger, Brian Ream, Norm Sharp, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers

NON-MEMBERS: Mike Nelson (friend of Kristin Bender), Gary Beatty, (friend of Debbie Hartman), JoAnn Deahl (Brandy Gahres' mother), Linda McMullan (sister in law of Greta McMullan), Kathy Reigle (friend of Deb Buffington), Candy Hibshman (friend of Rachel Mock), Jennifer Clinton (daughter of Renee & Layne Strickler), Louise Hainley (cousin of Deb Tice)

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, September 18th • 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Millcreek Lutheran Church

221 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown 17073

In the Multipurpose Room

Everyone will receive a \$5 Rutter's gift card & a Papa John's buy one Large Pizza get one FREE certificate!

Rutter's PAPAJOHNS

3 ways to schedule your donation appointment:

- go to 717GiveBlood.org & click on **DONATE NOW**
- call 1-800-771-0059
- scan the QR Code

A form of ID is **REQUIRED** to donate

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



- We kindly suggest you schedule an appointment to donate blood. Appointments help us improve your donation experience.
- Walk-Ins are welcome; however, donors with appointments will be taken first and this may result in a significant wait time.


Your Community Blood Bank.

The Greatest Gift of All

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 3:14-17



M J C V B G O D U O W T R H P
C O Z Z R E L U Q S T E Z J Z
O S S C Q R L I F T E D K F X
N O B E O L S I M P V G S D V
D N Q W S O J I E Z D J O N L
E S T I Z V H U A V L F M Y Y
M C L R P E R I S H E D K L W
N A R Y N D I B D F X S N S H
E T E R N A L N I M B O R E O
K J C O Z H E S A D F C V D E
A X I R Y S U V N T E A G J V
U B B D F W K S V A G S K Y E
A H Z R Y Q U Y Z Z K U E V R
C G M V R T N L I F E E A R A
K B T H R O U G H G H S K U T

WORLD	THROUGH	GAVE	BELIEVES	SEND
SON	ETERNAL	GOD	PERISH	HIM
ONLY	LOVED	CONDEMN	WHOEVER	SAVE
SNAKE	MOSES	LIFTED	DESERT	LIFE