

# Worship Service

BY BURT L. BURLERSON

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## *Call to Worship*

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,

**Let us rejoice and be glad.**

Surely God is in this place. This is none other than the house of God.

**Let us rejoice and be glad.**

Christ is the head of the Church. Through him all things are reconciled.

**Let us rejoice and be glad.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad.**

## *Chiming of the Hour and Introit*

“The Lord is in His Holy Temple”

The Lord is in his holy temple,  
the Lord is in his holy temple;  
let all the earth keep silence,  
let all the earth keep silence before him,  
keep silence, keep silence before him.

*George F. Root (1820-1895)*

*Tune: QUAM DILECTA*

## *Silent Meditation*

For God brought things into existence in order to communicate his goodness to creatures and to represent his goodness through them. And since his goodness cannot be adequately represented by any one creature, he produced many diverse creatures.... Hence, the universe as a whole participates in and represents God's goodness in a more perfect way than any single creature does.

*Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)*<sup>1</sup>

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## *Hymn of Praise*

“This is My Father’s World”

This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father’s world: I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—his hand the wonders wrought.

This is our Father’s world: O let us not forget  
That though the wrong is great and strong, God is the ruler yet.  
He trusts us with his world, to keep it clean and fair—  
all earth and trees, all skies and seas, all creatures everywhere.

This is my Father’s world: he shines in all that’s fair;  
in the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.  
This is my Father’s world: why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King, let heaven ring! God reigns; let earth be glad!

*Maltbie D. Babcock (1858-1901), alt.; v.2 rev. Mary Babcock Crawford (1972)*  
*Tune: TERRA BEATA*

## *Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1:26-31*

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

*Unison Reading* (based on Romans 8:22-25)

We know that the whole creation has been groaning.  
The cosmos has been moaning, as if it were giving  
birth right up to this very day. We also groan  
inwardly...longing to know fully what  
it means to be God's beloved child.  
This is salvation, to know deeply  
that for which we hope.  
Though we've tasted it...  
we still long for more.  
So we hope, we wait.  
With patience,  
we wait.

*Gospel Reading: John 17:20-23 (NIV)<sup>2</sup>*

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

*Hymn of Response*

"Chosen in Creation's Plan"

Chosen in creation's plan, set in place by God's own hand,  
blessed to bless all life in deed, naming, taming earth in need.  
Like our Maker, every care, ours to nurture and to bear,  
every sacred treasure known, held as gifts but never owned.

Every being, all that is, each in the Creator lives;  
not a thing apart, alone—yet creation longs and groans.  
Shamed, we separate in sin, Eden lost time and again;  
thorns and thistles, dust to dust, hear the gospel, now we must.

Chosen in redemption's plan, set in place by God's own hand,  
blessed to bless all life in need, setting right with truth and deed.  
Like our Savior, every care, ours to nurture and to bear,  
all of life a treasure known, lifted high to heaven's throne.

*Burt Burlison*

*Tune: BOZRAH*

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## Offering

### Song of Preparation

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord” (v. 1)

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after thy will,  
while I am waiting, yielded and still.

*Adelaide A. Pollard (1907)*

*Tune: ADELAIDE*

### Sermon

### Benediction

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

*1 Peter 2:9*

### NOTES

1 Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* I, Q 47, a 1.

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