

# October 3rd 2021

---

## Welcome & Announcements

### Prelude

## Gathering Around the Word

---

### Call to Worship

One: In the beginning, God created the world and called it good.

**All: Not just then, but even now, God is creating,  
calling us to join the work of making the world good.**

One: Earth and water and air; plants and animals and people:  
made from dirt and word and love.

**All: God gifts us all this and more,  
so that we can glorify and enjoy God forever.**

One: Come, let us worship God together.

### Hymn 20

*All Things Bright and Beautiful (vrs. 1 & 4)*

ROYAL OAK

### Call to Confession

God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and God's mercy endures to all generations. When we confess our brokenness, God's grace offers us a path to healing. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, let us confess with open and honest hearts our failure to live up to God's call. Let us pray.

### Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Creator God, you made us  
to live in harmony with you.  
Yet we confess that we often  
ignore you and go our own way,  
tempted by the desire to be our own gods.  
We have tried shortcuts to wisdom,  
thinking we know what is best,  
when really we know just enough  
to harm your creation and your beloved people.  
Forgive us for acting foolishly  
and relying only on ourselves.  
Forgive our disobedience,  
and give us hearts ready to obey your will.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

In the beginning, God breathed life into being, and every morning God's mercies are new. Who are we that God should care for us? Yet God now calls us beloved children; Jesus now claims us as sisters and brothers. Know that you – child of God, made in God's image – are forgiven, loved, and free! Dear friends, believe and live the good news:

**All: God's goodness is planted more deeply than all that is wrong. Thanks be to God!**

## Response

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.*

# Listening to the Word

---

## Prayer for Illumination of God's Word

*from Hebrews 1:1-2*

Lord God, as you spoke long ago through the voices of your prophets, speak to us here and now, through the power of your Spirit and the promise of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## First Reading

Genesis 2:18-24

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, "It's not good that the human is alone. I will make him a helper that is perfect for him." <sup>19</sup> So the LORD God formed from the fertile land all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky and brought them to the human to see what he would name them. The human gave each living being its name. <sup>20</sup> The human named all the livestock, all the birds in the sky, and all the wild animals. But a helper perfect for him was nowhere to be found.

<sup>21</sup> So the LORD God put the human into a deep and heavy sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh over it. <sup>22</sup> With the rib taken from the human, the LORD God fashioned a woman and brought her to the human being. <sup>23</sup> The human said,

"This one finally is bone from my bones  
and flesh from my flesh.  
She will be called a woman<sup>[b]</sup>  
because from a man<sup>[c]</sup> she was taken."

<sup>24</sup> This is the reason that a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife, and they become one flesh.

## Sharing Faith with the Younger Church

## Anthem

## Second Reading            Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

In the past, God spoke through the prophets to our ancestors in many times and many ways. <sup>2</sup> In these final days, though, he spoke to us through a Son. God made his Son the heir of everything and created the world through him. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the light of God's glory and the imprint of God's being. He maintains everything with his powerful message. After he carried out the cleansing of people from their sins, he sat down at the right side of the highest majesty. <sup>4</sup> And the Son became so much greater than the other messengers, such as angels, that he received a more important title than theirs.

2 God didn't put the world that is coming (the world we are talking about) under the angels' control. <sup>6</sup> Instead, someone declared somewhere,

*What is humanity that you think about them?*

*Or what are the human beings that you care about them?*

<sup>7</sup> *For a while you made them lower than angels.*

*You crowned the human beings with glory and honor.*

<sup>8</sup> *You put everything under their control.*

When he puts everything under their control, he doesn't leave anything out of control. But right now, we don't see everything under their control yet. <sup>9</sup> However, we do see the one who was made lower in order than the angels for a little while—it's Jesus! He's the one who is now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of his death. He suffered death so that he could taste death for everyone through God's grace.

<sup>10</sup> It was appropriate for God, for whom and through whom everything exists, to use experiences of suffering to make perfect the pioneer of salvation. This salvation belongs to many sons and daughters whom he's leading to glory. <sup>11</sup> This is because the one who makes people holy and the people who are being made holy all come from one source. That is why Jesus isn't ashamed to call them brothers and sisters when he says,

<sup>12</sup> *I will publicly announce your name to my brothers and sisters.*

*I will praise you in the middle of the assembly.*

## Sermon

# Responding to the Word

---

**Hymn 465**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus (vrs. 1 & 2)*

CONVERSE

**Affirmation of Faith**

Church Creed

**Sharing our Prayers**

**The Lord's Supper**

*Invitation to the Table*

*Great Thanksgiving*

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts!

**All: We lift them to the Lord!**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

*The Lord's Prayer*

*Sharing the Feast*

*Prayer after Communion*

**Giving Back to God's Kingdom**

*God has entrusted us with gifts of great value and worth.*

*May we return these gifts with thanksgiving and praise,  
that they might be used for God's glory and for the good of the world.*

**The Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Charge & Benediction**

**Blessing**

*"Irish Blessing"*

*Inside back of the hymnal*

**Postlude**