



General Synod 34: Making All Things New

Closing Worship “Re-creation/Revelation” | Tuesday, July 4, 2023
Indianapolis, Indiana

Prelude

Our Common Home, This Planet Earth

Our common home, this planet earth requires our common care
This gift of God is meant for all to use protect and share
The earth supports a web of life in which we take our place
It's food and water air and light sustain the human race

But now the earth is in distress from our pursuit of gain
If we consume our planet home, what profit will remain
If we ask more than earth can give and use more than we need
Our common future is at risk endangered by our greed

What we do now affects the earth beyond the present day
Concern for those who follow us can help us find our way
God, help us bend our common will to right our common wrong
That ages hence may sing your praise for earth restored and strong

Words and Music by Barbara Hamm

Call to Expressive Adoration (MOVEMENT)

Leader: Then, I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. God is making all things new, *Open up our hearts (Movement A)*

All: God is making all things new, *Open up our hearts (Movement A)*

Leader: The Spirit brings us to see God's glory shining from the mountain top. God is making all things new, *Help us do our part (Movement B)*

All: God is making all things new, *Help us do our part (Movement B)*

Leader: The glory of God is a light to the nations, the people of God bring their splendor and sight. God is making all things new, *Let this be our start (Movement C)*

All: God is making all things new, *Let this be our start (Movement C)*

Leader: Come to the river, Gather 'round the Tree, Dance in the Grass, Plant a few seeds. The God of abundance is setting us free!

All: God is making all things new,

Open up our hearts (Movement A)

Help us do our part (Movement B)

Let this be our start (Movement C)

Opening Song

Open The Eyes of My Heart Lord

Open the eyes of my heart, God

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up

Shinin' in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy, holy, holy

High and lifted up

Shinin' in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy, holy, holy

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INVOCATION

Pt. 1 (Sung in Chant-like form w/ movements)

Cantor: God has come to dwell with us. *Open up our hearts (Movement A)*

All: God has come to dwell with us. *Open up our hearts.*

Cantor: Holy City, New Jerusalem, *Help us do our part (Movement B)*

All: Holy City, New Jerusalem, *Help us do our part.*

Cantor: Wipe each tear from every eye, Hold us as we walk towards truth, You are making all things new.

All: *Open up our hearts.*

Help us do our part.

Open up our hearts.

Part. 2

God of the new heaven and the new earth,

God of ages past, of the soil of ancestors who have become soil,

You need no invocation for you are already and always dwelling with us—

Emmanuel—in times of uncertainty

Emmanuel—in times of reconciliation

Emmanuel—in times of resolution

Your angels surround us, guiding us to unpolluted rivers

Ushering us to healthy trees full of *unstrange* fruit that multiply.

We come to meet you where you meet us—

Here, in this place, flesh that weeps, laughs, and dances on your grass.

We will worship you, in spirit and in truth.

Amen.

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Generosity

We believe in the God of justice and righteousness, and God believes in us to carry forth the mission of loving and caring for community. Let us now share our gifts and resources so that we may continue to walk humbly with God and with neighbors.

Song

I Choose Love

In the midst of pain, I choose love, In the midst of pain, I choose love
In the midst of pain, sorry falling down like rain
I wait the sun again I choose Love, I choose Love

In the midst of war, I choose peace, In the midst of war, I choose peace
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score, I will seek the good once more,
I choose peace, I choose Peace
When my world falls down, I will rise, When my world falls down I will rise
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise, I will rise

In the midst of pain, I choose love, In the midst of pain, I choose love
In the midst of pain, sorry falling down like rain
I wait the sun again I choose Love, I choose Love

Words and Music by Mark Miller

Prayer of Dedication

For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community and the world, We dedicate these gifts. For the ways it'll help us be witnesses to God's love and compassion. We dedicate these gifts. Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, help us do a new thing with God and with community in this world. Amen.

Invitation to Transformation

Moment of Silence

Let us pray:

**God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in heavenly ponderings
Instead of in the power that works in us on earth.
We have spent much of our journey looking above
when you have come to dwell with us right here.
We have focused so much on a future paradise
That we have forgotten to care for the soil beneath our feet.
Forgive us for the times we stood looking for rescue**

when we were called to be the rescuer.
Forgive for the times we were seduced by myths of scarcity
Neglecting to share your abundance with our neighbors.
When we have lost our way, remind us of yours.
Holy Spirit, fall fresh on us again, so that we can bear witness
To mighty works of God through Christ in the world.

Words of Assurance

Cantor: God forgives. Now, we must live. *Open up our hearts (Movement A)*

All: God forgives. Now, we must live. *Open up our hearts.*

Cantor: Grace abounds, and love surrounds us. *Help us do our part (Movement B)*

All: Grace abounds, and love surrounds us. *Help us do our part.*

Cantor: She'll wipe each tear from every eye, and Hold us as we walk towards truth.

God is making all things new.

All: *Open up our hearts.*

Help us do our part.

Let this be our start.

Scripture Reading

Sermonic Song

Moving Forward

Oh, hey, what a moment You have brought me to?
Such a freedom I have found in You
You're the healer who makes all things new, yeah, yeah, yeah

I'm not going back, I'm moving ahead
Here to declare to You my past is over in You
All things are made new, surrendered my life to Christ
I'm moving, moving forward, oh

You have risen with all power in Your hands
You have given me a second chance
Hallelujah, hallelujah, yeah, yeah, yeah
Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, oh

I'm not going back, I'm moving ahead
Here to declare to You my past is over in You
All things are made new, surrendered my life to Christ
I'm moving

Not going back, moving ahead
Here to declare to You, my past is over in You
All things are made new, surrendered my life to Christ
I'm moving, moving forward
Said I'm moving forward, oh yeah

You make all things new
Yes, You make all things new and I will follow You forward,
You make all things new
You make all things new and I will follow You forward

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Sermon

The Reverend J.J. Flag
Associate Minister of Pastoral Care and Justice
Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC.

Ritual of Transition

Remarks

Sending

Cantor: God be with us as we scatter. *Open up our hearts (Movement A)*

All: God be with us as we scatter. *Open up our hearts (Movement A)*

Cantor: Watch and keep us, guide us, hold us. *Help us do our part (Movement B)*

All: Watch and keep us, guide us, hold us. *Help us do our part (Movement B)*

Cantor: May your face shine on us now. May we never forget your truth. You'll keep making all things new.

All: *Open up our hearts.*

Help us do our part.

Let this be our start.

Benediction

Closing Song

We Are a People of Hope

We are a people of hope, We are a people of hope
Lighting a candle, we wait for the dawn We are a people of hope

We are a people of peace, We are a people of peace
Lighting a candle, we work for the dawn We are a people of peace

We are a people of love, We are a people of love
Lighting a candle, we welcome the dawn We are a people of love

Christ is the light of the Word, Christ is the light of the world
Lighting a candle we witness the dawn, Christ is the light of the world

We are a people of hope we are a people of hope,
Lighting a candle we wait for the dawn
Lighting a candle we work for the dawn
Lighting a candle we welcome the dawn
Lighting a candle we witness the dawn
We are a people of hope.

Words and tune by Barbara Hamm

Recessional

Led by a delegate of the Missouri Mid-South Conference

GS34 Closing Worship was written by Rev. Mia McClain, Senior Pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington D.C.

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