



FRANCONIA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6037 Franconia Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310 | 703-971-5151 | www.franconiaumc.org



July 5, 2026 at 10:00 AM – Contemporary Service
Worship Series: Sacred Earth, Sacred Work
Message: Creation as a Blessing

Contemporary Order of Worship
July 5, 2026
Worship Series: Sacred Earth, Sacred Work

*Gathering

All Creatures of Our God and King

Praise Band

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Melissa Porter-Miller

Centering Moment

Pastor: God is good!

People: All the time!

Pastor: And all the time!

People: God is good!

Pastor: Indeed, we gather to celebrate the goodness of God and all of God's creation. I invite you to stand in body and/or spirit as you are comfortable. Let us give thanks for this opportunity to be together!

Pastor: To worship is to heighten and expand our attention to God, to others, and to the world around us. We open all our senses in a special way—seeing the Divine in all things and in every direction. We are used to looking to the front of our space during worship—just as we often limit our perspectives in life. We will open our worship in this series by symbolizing our willingness to become more aware of life all around us and aware that our lives are a part of the cycles and seasons of creation, constantly moving and growing.

I invite you to a quarter turn to your right.

When we dare to explore new directions, we discover new perspectives! Look to your right and left and see the people who are in front and behind you. Sometimes we only see our own slice of reality and don't open to really experience other's points of view. To gather as community is to delight in the unique contributions of each one! Now I invite you to turn another quarter turn to face the back.

Here we look towards the door at the back of our space. This is where we came in from the different rhythms of our lives (and if you didn't come in there, think of it as a symbol of wherever you came in) ... Some came from laid back rhythms, some hectic and harried. But now we are here together and we take a moment to simply tune into the rhythm of this body, this community, this moment with God. Let's take a breath in and then let it out—allowing any worries of what is left undone out there to be released just for a while. [pause and breathe with the congregation]

Let us turn another quarter turn.

To come to worship is to bring all of our lives. We face this fourth direction and know that all aspects of life—the good, the difficult, the things we are thankful for and the grief and fear that we may be facing—are ALL welcome here. Nothing is hidden from God and God welcomes it all to be transformed this day. Let us complete our turning to face the center of this room where the Light of Christ is coming into our midst.

(Acolyte comes in)

Christ, our Light, is the center of this community! And when we turn to face that light in our midst, we see one another. For each one is created in the image and likeness of God and so when we see one another, we see more of the Divine shine through.

*Centering Song

God of Wonders

Praise Band

*Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray

People: Creating God,

**You who spun the galaxies and breathed into us the breath of life,
open us to an awareness of the life coursing through us
that is connected to all creation.**

Tune our hearts to Your life-giving presence

That we may feel greater vitality in our lives,

And grow in our love towards others.

We praise You as the One in whom

We live, move, and have our being. AMEN.

Staff Update

Karen Coltrin

Children's Moment

Pastor Melissa Porter-Miller and Kim Cimino

Annual Conference Report

Peggy Owusu-Ansah

Prayers of People

Sarah Chambers

Leader: I invite you to make a fist with your hands and imagine in those clenched fists is all that you are holding tightly: fear, anxiety, worry, grief, loneliness, helplessness.

It may be a specific circumstance that has you tied in knots at the moment.

Now I invite you to slowly open your fists and imagine a letting go into the loving embrace of the Spirit who transforms all things. As we let go and open up, we see that now our hands and hearts are more ready to hold, with love, the concerns of others and the pain of the world.

We remember and hold with love...

[leader inserts congregational, community and world concerns here...
listing names, places, occurrences, etc.]

We also remember and hold with love these things now named silently in our hearts...

I invite you to place your hands now on your heart. In this silence we lift up all those things difficult to put into words, but felt in the depths of our hearts...

Loving Creator, receive what we offer, the spoken and the unspoken, all that springs from the depths of our hearts. As you shaped the world and called it good, remind us that we, too, are part of your beloved creation, held in your blessing.

Let your renewing breath move through all that is burdened—in us and in the world—bringing life where there is weariness, beauty where there is brokenness, and hope where there is despair. Open our eyes to see your goodness still unfolding, and our hands to care for all you have made.

May we go from this place as stewards of your blessing, bearing gentleness, gratitude, and love into the whole of creation. Amen.

Offering Song

10,000 Reasons

Praise Band

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Melissa -Porter-Miller

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1-2:4 (adapted from the [Message](#))

Bruce Bartolain

(Kathy Henry, Patricia O'Donnell, Rose Munson, Sam Patriola, Jess Posey, Sach Chambers)

Bruce Bartolain: First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.

God spoke: "(Kathy Henry) Light!"

And light appeared.

God saw that light was good
and separated light from dark.

God named the light Day,

And named the dark Night.

It was evening, it was morning—
Day One.

God spoke: "(Kathy Henry, Patricia O'Donnell) Sky! In the middle of the waters;
separate water from water!"

God made sky.

God separated the water under sky
from the water above sky.

And there it was:

God named sky the Heavens;

It was evening, it was morning—

Day Two.

God spoke: "(Kathy Henry, Patricia O'Donnell, Rose Munson) Separate!

Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into one place;

Land, appear!"

And there it was.

God named the land Earth.

God named the pooled water Ocean.

God saw that it was good.

God spoke: "(Kathy Henry, Patricia O'Donnell, Rose Munson) "Earth, green up! Grow all
varieties of seed-bearing plants,

Every sort of fruit-bearing tree."

And there it was.

Earth produced green seed-bearing plants,
all varieties,

And fruit-bearing trees of all sorts.

God saw that it was good.

It was evening, it was morning—

Day Three.

God spoke: "(Sam Patricola) Lights! Come out!

Shine in Heaven's sky!

Separate Day from Night.

Mark seasons and days and years,

Lights in Heaven's sky to give light to Earth."

And there it was.

God made two big lights, the larger
to take charge of Day,

The smaller to be in charge of Night;

and God made the stars.

God placed them in the heavenly sky

to light up Earth
And oversee Day and Night,
to separate light and dark.
God saw that it was good.
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Four.

God spoke: "(add Jess Posey) Swarm, Ocean, with fish and all sea life!
Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!"
God created the huge whales,
all the swarm of life in the waters,
And every kind and species of flying birds.
God saw that it was good.
God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Ocean!
Birds, reproduce on Earth!"
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Five.

God spoke: "(Add Zach Chambers) Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind:
cattle and reptiles and wild animals—all kinds."
And there it was: wild animals of every kind,
Cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug.
God saw that it was good.

God spoke: "(All) Let us make human beings in our image, make
them reflecting our nature
So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea,
the birds in the air, the cattle,
And, yes, Earth itself,
and every animal that moves on the face of Earth."
God created human beings;
God created them godlike,
Reflecting God's nature.
God created them,
God blessed them:

(All) "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!
Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,
for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth."
Then God said, (All) "I've given you

every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth
And every kind of fruit-bearing tree,
given them to you for food.
To all animals and all birds,
everything that moves and breathes,
I give whatever grows out of the ground for food.”
And there it was.

God looked over everything God had made;
it was so good, so very good!
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Six.
Heaven and Earth were finished,
down to the last detail.

By the seventh day
God had finished God’s work. (All) [Whew!]
On the seventh day
God rested from all this work. (All) [Yes!]
God blessed the seventh day.
God made it a Holy Day
Because on that day God rested from the work,
all the creating God had done (All) [and it was so very good].
This is the story of how it all started, of Heaven and Earth when they were created.

Message

Creation as a Blessing

Pastor Melissa Porter-Miller

Invitation to Communion

Sarah Chambers

Prayer of Confession

**Holy and Creating God,
You looked upon all that You made and called it good—
the earth, the waters, the creatures, and us.
Yet we confess that we do not always live
as those who trust Your creation is good.
We have taken more than we need
and given less than we could.
We have forgotten our place within creation,**

thinking ourselves separate rather than connected.
We overlook beauty, rush past wonder,
and neglect the sacred work You have entrusted to us.
We turn away from our responsibility
to care for the earth and for one another.
Forgive us, O God.
Reawaken in us a sense of wonder.
Restore in us a spirit of gratitude.
Renew in us a calling to be faithful stewards
of all that You have made.
In Your mercy, reshape our lives
so that we may reflect Your goodness in all we do. AMEN.

Assurance and Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news:

The God who created the world in love
has not abandoned it or us.

From the very beginning, God's blessing has remained,
and through Christ, that blessing is being made new in you.

The Spirit moves within you still,
renewing, restoring, and calling you beloved.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. AMEN.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Creator God is with us!

God is with us now!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to God!

Let us give thanks to the Holy One!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

It is right and good, always and everywhere,
to give praise to God, the Creator of all that is.

love in a dog's caress,

grace in the tilling and turning of soil,

hope in a fresh season of spring,

freedom in winged flight—

all creation speaks volumes of God.

**You created it all and called it good.
You fashioned us from the clay of the earth
and formed us on your potter's wheel.
Even when we crack under pressure,
even when we find ourselves broken into pieces,
you are always there to lovingly mend and heal us.
You promised to be our forever-God
and You have remained faithful through ages and eons.**

And so, with all creatures of the earth and heaven,
we lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving!
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are You . . . And so, in remembrance
of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer
**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. AMEN**

Breaking of the Bread

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Music During Communion Speak to Me Praise Band

Prayer Following Communion

**Eternal God,
we give You thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given Yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of Your Spirit,
to give ourselves to others.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**

*Closing Song Multiplied Praise Band

*Benediction Pastor Melissa Porter-Miller

Postlude *Multiplied (Reprise)* Praise Band



*Franconia United Methodist Church believes that everyone is a child of God.
We welcome all people to worship, join in membership, serve in lay leadership,
and actively participate in the life of the church.*

*We welcome and affirm all persons without regard to gender, gender identity, race,
sexual orientation, faith tradition, age, marital status, family structure,
economic background, political affiliation, physical or mental ability or life experience.*

We commit to extend Christ's hospitality, creating a place of safety and sanctuary for all people.

*We recognize there are differences among us and although we may not think or look alike,
we commit to respect and love one another as we are all the family of God.*

*We further commit ourselves to loving acts of invitation, hospitality, and community,
providing ministry to, for, and with all persons without exception,
fostering a sense of belonging where people are respected and valued as beloved children of God.*

Media Tech Team:

Bobby Anderson
Joana Arthur
Zach Chambers
Caroline Coltrin
Andrew Hamilton
Leah Hamilton
Jess Posey
Henry McCarthy
Grace Stahl
Liam Upp

Praise Band:

Dave Bryan
Sarah Chambers
Yolanda Girouard
Andrew Hamilton
Kathy Henry
Peggy Owusu-Ansah
Shea Porter-Miller
Dan Upp

Staff:

Reverend: Melissa Porter-Miller
Church Office: Rose Munson
Children's Ministry: Children's Director
Music Ministry: Amy McCarthy
Praise & Worship Leader: Sarah Chambers
Youth & Young Adult Ministries: Sarah Chambers
Organist: June Shuffett
Handbells: Linda Biscardo
All God's Children Preschool: Jessica Copes
Nursery: Marie Bonhomme and Susann Ferrell

pastormelissa@franconiaumc.org
churchoffice@franconiaumc.org
childrensministry@franconiaumc.org
music@franconiaumc.org
praise@franconiaumc.org
youth@franconiaumc.org
organist@franconiaumc.org
handbells@franconiaumc.org
AGCpreschool@franconiaumc.org