**Readings for Hymn Festival – “Hope for All Creation”**

**All Creatures of Our God and King**

Blessed are the chosen! Blessed the guest

at home in your place!

We expect our fill of good things

in your house, your heavenly manse.

All your salvation wonders

are on display in your trophy room.

Earth-Tamer, Ocean-Pourer,

Mountain-Maker, Hill-Dresser,

Muzzler of sea storm and wave crash,

of mobs in noisy riot—

Far and wide they’ll come to a stop,

they’ll stare in awe, in wonder.

Dawn and dusk take turns

calling, “Come and worship.”

Oh, visit the earth,

ask her to join the dance!

Deck her out in spring showers,

fill the God-River with living water.

Paint the wheat fields golden.

Creation was made for this!

Drench the plowed fields,

soak the dirt clods

With rainfall as harrow and rake

bring her to blossom and fruit.

Snow-crown the peaks with splendor,

scatter rose petals down your paths,

All through the wild meadows, rose petals.

Set the hills to dancing,

Dress the canyon walls with live sheep,

a drape of flax across the valleys.

Let them shout, and shout, and shout!

Oh, oh, let them sing!

Psalm 65:4-13, *The Message* (1 min)

**Hymn – Earth and & All Stars**

“May every creature abound in wellbeing and peace. May every living being, weak or strong, the long and the small, the short and the medium-sized, the mean and the great, May every living being, seen or unseen, those dwelling far off, those living nearby, those already born, those waiting to be born; may all attain inward peace.

“Let no one deceive another. Let no one despise one another in any situation. Let no one, from antipathy or hatred, wish evil to anyone at all.

“Just as a mother, with her own life, protects her only child from hurt, so within yourself foster a limitless concern for every loving creature. Display a heart of boundless love for all the world in all its height and depth and broad extent,

“Love unrestrained, without hate or enmity. Then as you stand or walk, sit or lie, until overcome by drowsiness, devote your mind entirely to this: It is known as living the life divine.”

*Blessing from the Buddha* (1.25 min)

**Choir Anthem – Golden Breaks the Dawn**

O most High, almighty, good Lord God,

to you belong praise, glory, honor, and all blessing!

Praised be my Lord God with all creatures;

and especially our brother the sun,

which brings us the day, and the light;

fair is he, and shining with a very great splendor:

O Lord, he signifies you to us!

Praised be my Lord for our sister the moon,

and for the stars,

which God has set clear and lovely in heaven.

Praised be my Lord for our brother the wind,

and for air and cloud, calms and all weather,

by which you uphold in life all creatures.

Praised be my Lord for our sister water,

which is very serviceable to us,

and humble, and precious, and clean.

Praised be my Lord for brother fire,

through which you give us light in the darkness:

and he is bright, and pleasant, and very mighty,

and strong.

Praised be my Lord for our mother the Earth,

which sustains us and keeps us,

and yields diverse fruits, and flowers of

many colors, and grass.

Praise you, and bless you the Lord,

and give thanks to God, and serve God

with great humility.

(from “Canticle of the Sun”, St. Francis of Assisi) (1.5 min)

**Hymn – Oh, Sing to God Above**

**Organ Voluntary**

“Once more the fields have ripened to harvest, and the fruitful earth has fulfilled the promise of spring.

“The work of those who labor has been rewarded: They have sown and reaped, planted and gathered. How rich and beautiful is the bounty gathered: The golden grain and clustered corn, the grapes of purple and green, The crimson apples and yellow pears, and all the colors of orchard and garden, vineyard and field.

“Season follows after season, after winter the spring, after summer the harvest-laden autumn. From bud to blossom, from flower to fruit, from seed to bud again, the beauty of the earth unfolds.

“From the harvest of the soil we are given occasion to garner a harvest of the heart and mind: a harvest of resolve to be careful stewards of all life’s gifts and opportunities. A harvest of reverence for the wondrous power and life at work in things that grow, and in the soul. A harvest of gratitude for every good we enjoy, and of fellowship for all who are sustained by earth’s beauty.”

Percival Chubb

**Hymn – God, Whose Farm Is All Creation**

**Organ/Flute Voluntary**

“In the darkness something was happening at last. A voice had begun to sing. It was very far away and Digory found it hard to decide from what direction it was coming. But it was, beyond comparison, the most beautiful noise he had ever heard. It was so beautiful he could hardly bear it…

“Then two wonders happened at the same moment. One was that the voice was suddenly joined by other voices; more voices than you could possibly count. They were in harmony with it, but far higher up the scale: cold, tingling, silvery voices. The second wonder was that the blackness overhead, all at once, was blazing with stars. They didn’t come out gently one by one, as they do on a summer evening. One moment there had been nothing but darkness; next moment a thousand, thousand points of light leaped out – single stars, constellations, and planets, brighter and bigger than any in our world. There were no clouds. The new stars and the new voices began at exactly the same time. If you had seen and heard it, as Digory did, you would have felt quite certain that it was the stars themselves who were singing, and that it was the First Voice, the deep one, which had made them appear and made them sing….

“Then there came a swift flash like fire (but it burnt nobody) either from the sky or from the Lion itself, and every drop of blood tingled in the children’s bodies, and the deepest, wildest voice they had ever heard was saying:

“Narnia, Narnia, Narnia, awake. Love. Think. Speak. Be walking trees. Be talking beasts. Be divine waters.”

-From *The Magician’s Nephew*, “The Chronicles of Narnia”, C.S. Lewis

**Choir anthem - When Long Before Time**

**Brass Voluntary**

“We should understand well that all things are the work of the Great Spirit. We should know the Great Spirit is within all things: the trees, the grasses, the rivers, the mountains, and the four-legged and winged peoples; and even more important, we should understand that the Great Spirit is also above all these things and peoples. When we do understand all this deeply in our hearts, then we will fear, and love, and know the Great Spirit, and then we will be and act and live as the Spirit intends.”

– Black Elk, Oglala Lakota Sioux

**Hymn – Many and Great**

We join with the earth and with each other.

To bring new life to the land

To restore the waters

To refresh the air

We join with the earth and with each other.

To renew the forests

To care for the plants

To protect the creatures

We join with the earth and with each other.

To celebrate the seas

To rejoice the sunlight

To sing the song of the stars

We join with the earth and with each other.

To recall our destiny

To renew our spirits

To reinvigorate our bodies

We join with the earth and with each other.

To create the human community

To promote justice and peace

To remember our children

We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery: for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.

“A Prayer of Healing”, UN Environmental Sabbath Program

**Choir Anthem – In Sacred Manner**

And then all that has divided us will merge

And then compassion will be wedded to power

And then softness will come to a world that is harsh and unkind

And then both men and women will be gentle

And then both women and men will be strong

And then no person will be subject to another's will

And then all will be rich and free and varied

And then the greed of some will give way to the needs of many

And then all will share equally in the Earth's abundance

And then all will care for the sick and the weak and the old

And then all will nourish the young

And then all will cherish life's creatures

And then everywhere will be called Eden once again

“Merger Poem”, Judy Chicago

**Hymn – This is God’s Wondrous World**

**Sending – Praise God with Drums and Cymbals**