

Order of Worship  
Sunday, April 18, 2021  
“Thinking God’s Thoughts After Him”

**Opening**

**Prelude** “Here in This Place” - Christopher Grundy

**Welcome**

**Opening Song** “God of Wonders” - Marc Byrd & Steve Hindalong

Opening to the Spirit's Instruction

**Scripture Reading 1**

Job 38:1-33

Liturgist

**38:1** Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

<sup>2</sup> “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

<sup>3</sup> Gird up your loins like a man,  
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

<sup>4</sup> “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?  
Tell me, if you have understanding.

<sup>5</sup> Who determined its measurements—surely you know!  
Or who stretched the line upon it?

<sup>6</sup> On what were its bases sunk,  
or who laid its cornerstone

<sup>7</sup> when the morning stars sang together  
and all the heavenly beings<sup>[a]</sup> shouted for joy?

<sup>8</sup> “Or who shut in the sea with doors  
when it burst out from the womb?—

<sup>9</sup> when I made the clouds its garment,  
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

<sup>10</sup> and prescribed bounds for it,  
and set bars and doors,

<sup>11</sup> and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,  
and here shall your proud waves be stopped’?

<sup>12</sup> “Have you commanded the morning since your days began,  
and caused the dawn to know its place,

<sup>13</sup> so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,  
and the wicked be shaken out of it?

<sup>14</sup> It is changed like clay under the seal,

- and it is dyed<sup>[b]</sup> like a garment.
- 15 Light is withheld from the wicked,  
and their uplifted arm is broken.
- 16 "Have you entered into the springs of the sea,  
or walked in the recesses of the deep?
- 17 Have the gates of death been revealed to you,  
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
- 18 Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?  
Declare, if you know all this.
- 19 "Where is the way to the dwelling of light,  
and where is the place of darkness,  
20 that you may take it to its territory  
and that you may discern the paths to its home?
- 21 Surely you know, for you were born then,  
and the number of your days is great!
- 22 "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,  
or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,  
23 which I have reserved for the time of trouble,  
for the day of battle and war?
- 24 What is the way to the place where the light is distributed,  
or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth?
- 25 "Who has cut a channel for the torrents of rain,  
and a way for the thunderbolt,  
26 to bring rain on a land where no one lives,  
on the desert, which is empty of human life,  
27 to satisfy the waste and desolate land,  
and to make the ground put forth grass?
- 28 "Has the rain a father,  
or who has begotten the drops of dew?  
29 From whose womb did the ice come forth,  
and who has given birth to the hoarfrost of heaven?  
30 The waters become hard like stone,  
and the face of the deep is frozen.
- 31 "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades,  
or loose the cords of Orion?  
32 Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season,  
or can you guide the Bear with its children?  
33 Do you know the ordinances of the heavens?  
Can you establish their rule on the earth?

**Scripture Reading 2**

Colossians 1:9-20

Liturgist

<sup>9</sup> ... we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's<sup>[a]</sup> will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to God, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from God's glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled<sup>[b]</sup> you<sup>[c]</sup> to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup> for in<sup>[e]</sup> him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in<sup>[f]</sup> him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

*May God's Spirit speak to us today through these words of Scripture, the music we sing and hear, and the message shared this day.*

**Song** "Bring Forth the Kingdom of God" - Gretchen Barron

**Sermon Series: Parting Thoughts** "Thinking God's Thoughts after Him: Science and Religion" Pastor Craig

**Song** "Indescribable" - Chris Tomlin

**Prayers for Our World and One Another**

Let us enter now into a time of prayer for one another and for our world. We will do what is called a Bidding Prayer. I will open, and then I will bid your prayers based around various categories. During the silence after each category is bid, I invite you

to add your own prayers, either aloud or in silence. I will then close with a prayer, then the Lord's Prayer. Let us be in prayer.

\* \* \*

Let us pray now for all who are ill, in hospital or at home, especially those affected by cancer or COVID-19.

\* \* \*

Let us pray now for all medical and emergency services personnel who are responding to the best of their abilities with the resources that they have at hand.

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Let us pray now for all those who are hungry or food insecure, and for all community and religious efforts to provide food and shelter.

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Let us pray for all who are still displaced from their homes, and those who have no home.

\* \* \*

Let us pray for the leaders of nations around the world, not only regarding their response to this pandemic, but also that they may do everything possible to assure the health and welfare of their citizens.

\* \* \*

Let us pray for all school and college governing boards, administrations and staff, all faculty, and students as they work to offer appropriate and equitable education in a manner that protects the health and safety of all persons.

\* \* \*

Let us pray for our friends, family, and neighbors for their health and well-being.

\* \* \*

Let us also express our thanks to God for the expressions of love and caring that we have witnessed in our families, communities, and world.

\* \* \*

Let us express our gratitude for life and the myriad things that gladden our hearts.

\* \* \*

These prayers, spoken aloud or in silence, we lift into the universal embrace of the One who is Love, and we make them in the name of the One who showed us what Love looks like in the flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, and we now join our voices in the prayer he taught us, saying:

**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**

**Prayer Response (Video):** "Kyrie" JCUMC Virtual Choir

### **We Offer Ourselves in Commitment and Service**

**Acknowledgement of Gifts Stewardship Thank-You Video**

**Song of Dedication (Video)** "Halle, Halle, Halleluja"

**Sending Forth** Pastor

**Closing Song** "You Shall Go Out with Joy" - vbtyree

**Closing Credits**