

# Order of Worship

September 8, 2024 10:00 AM

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Welcome to this time of worship, as we gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

## Prelude

**Be Still, My Soul**

arr. Bjorck

Steven McBride, piano

## Welcome

Rev. Nilse Furtado-Gilliam

## Greeting

Leader: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."  
Creator God, you formed our universe from a shapeless void;  
you fashioned the planets and forged the stars;  
you established the seasons and determined life's rightful order:

**People: Creator God, we worship you!**

Leader: Word of Life, you spoke over your creation and made it live;  
you painted nature into beautiful color;  
you stirred seas and rivers to song;  
you called forth creatures of every shape and size:

**People: Word of Life, we respond to you!**

Leader: Spirit of Life, you gathered the dust of the earth  
and made humans in your image;  
you breathed life into them, that they might know you;  
you filled your earth with tribes and nations;  
you entrusted your precious world to us, your family:

**People: Spirit of Life, we receive you!**

Leader: "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

**People: Almighty God, today we celebrate the good gift of your creation;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, today we rejoice in the gift  
of being in relationship with you!**

## Hymn

**Open Up the Heavens**

## Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy and eternal God,  
you created us in your image  
and gave us special responsibilities toward creation  
and our fellow human beings.

**People: You set us as caretakers for the earth  
and all its plants and animals.**

Leader: Dear God, as we look at our polluted earth,  
where we consume resources at an unsustainable rate,  
we know that we have failed to be good stewards.

**People: We beg your mercy for our sins  
and await with expectancy  
the renewal of our minds and hearts,  
that we may devote the rest of our days  
to protecting the earth and all who inhabit it.  
Amen.**

### **Words of Forgiveness**

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Leader: God's mercy and compassion are without limit.  
God's tenderness toward us is without measure.  
In confidence, we claim the forgiveness offered to us  
by the one whose love is unconditional.

**People: Praise be to God! Amen.**

### **Children's Message**

#### **Scripture**

**Genesis 1:1-31**

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

#### **Sermon**

**Hope in Action**

Rev. Wines

*"We recognize the inherent worth of God's creation, celebrate earth's abundance and diversity, and, along with the entirety of the cosmos, give praise to its Creator."  
UM 2024 Social Principles*

#### **Hymn**

**Let Us with a Joyful Mind**

TFWS 2012

#### **Prayer of the People**

Rev. Furtado-Gilliam

Leader: ...we pray,

**People: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

#### **Offering**

*You are invited to make your offering to support the ministry and mission of Clarendon UMC.  
You may text to give at 84321 or go to the Online Worship page of our website  
and click "Make your online offering."*

**Sending Forth**

**Hymn**

**We Have a Common Calling**

**Benediction**

Rev. Wines

**Postlude**

**Fanfare**

William Matthias

Steven McBride, organ

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**Welcome CJ, our newest Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts!**

CJ Redden-Liotta (he/him) has been an active professional musician in the Washington, DC area for over 20 years. He currently serves as the Director of Choral Activities and Performing Arts Department Chair at Falls Church High School in Fairfax County. He also is an active musical theatre conductor, working with the City of Fairfax Theatre Company and the Falls Church High School Spotlight Theatre Company. Previously, he served as assistant conductor at W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax, VA, and has taught as

an adjunct professor of music at George Mason University, where he taught Fundamentals of Music and Aural Skills and served for five years as a Graduate Conducting Associate. Additionally, he is a nationally recognized choral adjudicator and clinician.

Dr. Redden-Liotta received his Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting at George Mason University as a student of Dr. Lisa Billingham and Dr. Stanley Engebretson where he also studied instrumental conducting with Anthony Maiello and voice with John Aler. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from the University of North Texas. He is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association and The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Dr. Redden-Liotta was selected as a Lovelace Scholar in 2014 and 2015 by the Hymn Society and selected as a participant in the Raising the Song Symposium of the Center for Liturgy and Music at the Virginia Theological Seminary. He also served two terms as the Music in Worship Repertoire and Standards Chairperson and is the current Vocal Jazz Repertoire and Resources Chair for Virginia ACDA.

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