

Outdoor Ministries Sunday

*To celebrate the ways we experience God in Creation & community, and lift up
Our Church's Summer Camp, Horton Center*

Gathering music – Suggestions “Part of the Family”, “This is The Day”

Welcome & Prayer of Welcome

One: Praise God from the mountaintops and sandy beaches

Many: Praise God from the valley ways and river rapids

One: Praise God from the trails and campfires.

Many: Praise God on skis and mountain bikes

One: Praise God from tents and RVs

Many: Praise God from the birdfeeders and garden beds

All: Let every creature everywhere Praise God!

Opening Music – “All God’s Critter’s Got a Place in the Choir” or “They’ll Know We are Christians by Our Love”

Confession - God of wonder and awe, we admit that often we are too busy to revel in the wonder of your creation. We are so hurried that we miss chances to just be. To just be present to another, to be present to the Creation around us. When we hurry inside without gazing at the starry sky, forgive us. When we fail to respect each creature and creation around us, yet profess to love the earth, forgive us. Create in us a spirit of compassionate curiosity to explore and fall in love with all of Creation. Give us the energy to live out our faith, even when it would be easier not to. In the name of Jesus we pray.

Words of Assurance - As children of God, we are loved tenderly. God longs to bring us into God’s embrace. By the life and love of Jesus, you are forgiven and freeⁱ.

Scripture – (scripture suggestions are from the 2015 camp curriculum, “Living in the Spirit”) Ephesians 4:1-6, John 14:25-27, Galatians 5:16-26, Acts 2:1-18 or Psalm 29, Psalm 121

Sermon – If there are campers in your congregation, this is a wonderful chance for them to testify to what the camp experience has meant to them. This is also a wonderful opportunity to engage the congregation in reflecting on how experiences in Creation and community have shaped their faith, understanding of God, Jesus, and the Spirit.

Music – “Here I am Lord” or “Pass it On”

Prayers of the People – *Invite people to write their prayers on a piece of paper, and then collect them. Then invite people to come forward and read the prayers (not their own), and light a candle.*

Response – “Those Who wait Upon the Lord”, sung to the tune of Eye of the Tiger

Offering – *We suggest that part of the offering collected goes to the Horton Center Scholarship fund or general support of Horton Center*

Offertory – “Spirit”

Music – “Go Tell it on the Mountain” or “Amazing Grace, HC Style”

Benediction – Sing “Shalom My Friends” *If the congregation is comfortable, we invite you to hold hands while you sing*

For more information on your church’s summer camp, please visit
www.hortoncenter.org

ⁱ Words of Assurance are used with permission from UCC’s Worship Ways, 17th Sunday after Pentecost, October 5, 2014