

***FINDING LIFE...from Eden to Gethsemane***  
**Lenten Worship Series – Week 1**  
***Creation in the Garden***  
**February 14, 2016**

**Announcements and Offering**

***Parallel Gardens***

**Call to Worship:**

Our journey through Lent this year is about parallel gardens: about the garden lost (the Garden of Eden) and the garden restored (the Garden of Gethsemane).

In Eden, the shame initiated when Adam and Eve’s eyes were opened still paralyzes. We don’t always hear the voice that Adam and Eve heard in the cool of the garden; nor do we recognize Christ’s voice speaking to us. And so it goes. Fellowship is hindered, we cannot see God face-to-face, pain continues, and the serpent still tempts and throws dice for our soul.

For the uncomfortable time being, we hover between two gardens. We long for the perfection of Eden, still we resist pressing onward to the fulfillment of Gethsemane. But we can learn to flourish in between, learn to live with the tension of ‘not quite’, learn to live with what we don’t fully understand, learn to lean toward the hope while still in this land between. Ultimately, the Garden of Eden finds its fulfillment in the garden of Gethsemane – and so, God willing, shall we. Because this is a journey about finding life.

(Adapted from Finding Life, pages 18-19, 22-23, 26)

<b>SB#16 – O worship the King</b> <b>HC#221 – Use words to SB#16</b>	TB-531 – Hanover HC-221	HTD4-T4 (3 vs.) HCD21-T11
<b>Additional Optional Songs</b>		
<b>SB#1 – A mighty fortress is our God</b>	TB-640 – Ein’ Feste Burg	HTD3-T10 (4vs.)
<b>SB#2 – All creatures of our God and King</b>	TB-45 – St Francis	HTD2-T15 (3 vs.)
<b>SB#8 – Immortal, invisible, God only wise</b>	TB-569 – St. Denio TB-976 – Foundation	No CD HTD8-T4 (4 vs.)
<b>SB#10/HC#121 – Joyful, Joyful</b>	TB-435 – Europe HC-121	HTD3-T11 (4 vs.) HCD11-T11
<b>SB#13/HC#118 – O God, Our Help</b>	TB-127 – St Ann HC-118	HTD5-T18 (4 vs.) HCD10-T18
<b>SB#17 – Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven</b>	TB-422 – Praise, my soul	HTD2-T12 (3 vs.)
<b>SB#19 – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation</b>	TB-721 – Lobe den Herren	HTD4-T11 (4 vs.)
<b>HC#141 – All Hail the Power</b>	HC-141	HCD13-T11

<b>SB#20/HC#171 – Stand up and bless the Lord</b>	TB-167 – Falcon Street HC-171	HTD3-T12 (3vs.) HCD16-T11
<b>HC#93 – Holy, Holy, Holy</b>	HC-93	HCD8-T13
<b>HC#118 – O God Our Help in Ages Past</b>	HC-118	HCD10-T18
<b>HC#212 – Teach Me to Dance</b>	HC-212	HCD20-T12
<b>HC#222 – Creation Sings the Father’s Song</b>	HC-222	HCD21-T12

### *The Story of Creation*

<b>Drama – Mighty God</b>
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<b>HC#151 – Fairest Lord Jesus</b>	HC-151	HCD14-T11
<b>Additional Optional Songs</b>		
<b>SB#983 – Great is thy faithfulness</b>	TB-657/983 – same	HTD1-T10 (3 vs.)
<b>SB#993 – How great thou art!</b>	TB-544/993 – same	HTD1-T12 (4 vs.)
<b>SB#39 – O might God! When I thy works consider</b>	TB-544/993 – How great thou art!	HTD1-T12 (4 vs.)
<b>SB#42 – This is my Father’s world</b>	TB-186 – Terra Beata	HTD4-T16 (3 vs.)
<b>SB#46 – God loved the world of sinners lost</b>	TB-86 – Fewster	HTD3-T13 (4 vs.)

### *Eden – The Garden Lost*

#### Scripture Alive!

**Leader:** When human body meets divine spirit, soul is born. Divine breath and sculpted earth come together to make up the living soul. For thousands of years, philosophers and theologians have posed the question: what is a human being? Here God gives the answer.

**Reader 1:** <sup>7</sup> One day the Eternal God scooped dirt out of the ground, sculpted it into *the shape we call* human, breathed the breath that gives life into the nostrils of the human, and the human became a living soul.

**Leader:** <sup>8</sup> The Eternal God planted a garden in the east in Eden—a *place of utter delight*—and placed the man whom He had sculpted there. <sup>9</sup> *In this garden*, He made the ground pregnant *with life—bursting forth* with nourishing food and *luxuriant* beauty. *He created* trees, and in the center of this garden *of delights* stood the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**Reader 1:** <sup>15</sup> The Eternal God placed the *newly made* man in the Garden of Eden in order to work the ground and care for it. <sup>16</sup> He made certain demands of the man *regarding life in the garden*.

**God:** Eat freely from any *and all* trees in the garden; <sup>17</sup> I only require that you abstain from eating the fruit of *one tree*—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. *Beware:* the day you eat the fruit of this tree, you will certainly die.

**Leader:** After God gives man this directive, He realizes something is missing.

**Reader 1:** <sup>18</sup> It is not good for the man to be alone, so I will create a companion for him, a perfectly suited partner.

**Leader:** <sup>21</sup> So the Eternal God put him into a deep sleep, removed a rib *from his side*, and closed the flesh around the opening. <sup>22</sup> He formed a woman from the rib taken out of the man and presented her to him.

**Adam:** <sup>23</sup> At last, *a suitable companion, a perfect partner*.  
Bone from my bones.  
Flesh from my flesh.  
I will call this one “woman” as *an eternal reminder*  
*that she was taken out of man*.

**Reader 1:** <sup>24</sup> Now this is the reason a man leaves his father and his mother, and is united with his wife; and the two become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> *In those days* the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

**Leader:** <sup>3:1</sup> Of all the wild creatures the Eternal God had created, the serpent was the craftiest.

**Serpent (to the woman):** Is it true that God has forbidden you to eat *fruits* from the trees of the garden?

**Eve:** <sup>2</sup> *No, serpent. God said* we are free to eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. <sup>3</sup> *We are granted access to any variety and all amounts of fruit* with one exception: the fruit from the tree found in the center of the garden. God instructed us not to eat or touch the fruit of that tree or we would die.

**Serpent:** <sup>4</sup> *Die? No, you’ll not die. God is playing games with you.* <sup>5</sup> *The truth is that* God knows the day you eat the fruit from that tree you will awaken *something powerful in you* and become like Him: possessing knowledge of *both* good and evil.

**Reader 1:** <sup>6</sup> The woman *approached the tree*, eyed its fruit, and coveted its *mouth-watering, wisdom-granting* beauty. She plucked a fruit from the tree and ate. She then offered *the fruit* to her husband who was close by, and he ate as well.

**Leader:** <sup>7</sup> Suddenly their eyes were opened *to a reality previously unknown*. For the first time, they sensed *their vulnerability and rushed to hide* their naked bodies, stitching fig leaves into crude loincloths.

**Reader 1:** <sup>8</sup> Then they heard the sound of the Eternal God walking in the cool *misting* shadows of the garden. The man and his wife took cover among the trees and hid from the Eternal God.

**Reader 1:** <sup>23</sup> So the Eternal God banished Adam *and Eve* from the garden of Eden *and exiled humanity from paradise, sentencing humans to laborious lives* working the very ground man came from.

**Leader:** The story of humanity’s sin begins with a tree and ends on a tree: first, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; and finally, the cross on which Jesus dies. The first tree offers fruit that leads to death, but the second offers a death that leads to eternal life.

(Genesis 2:7-9, 15-18, 21-24; 3:1-8, 23, *The Voice*)

<b>HC#234 – Beneath the Cross</b>	HC-234	HCD22-T14
<b>Additional Optional Songs</b>		
<b>HC#89 – Knowing You</b>	HC-89	HCD7-T19
<b>HC#127 – How Deep the Father’s Love for Us</b>	HC-127	HCD11-T17
<b>HC#205 – Closer Still</b>	HC-205	HCD19-T15
<b>HC#236 – Lord, I Need You</b>	HC-236	HCD22-T16
<b>HC#238 – O Great God</b>	HC-238	HCD22-T18

### Prayers of the Congregation

#### Pastoral Prayer:

At Your command, O God, light came to be—the visible light that brightens Your creation and the light of truth that illuminates our existence as Your creatures. Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. In our struggle to see by Your light, You have come as the Light of the world—Jesus, who turns even the darkness into light for us. O bright and Morning Star, let Your light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ! Amen.

(*The NIV Worship Bible*, page 2)

### *I Found Life*

**Testimony/Testimonies – Theme – “I want to honor and glorify God by....” or “I find the goodness of God’s creation in....”**

### *Gethsemane – The Garden Restored*

**Leader:** So much of the drama in Christ's life took place in beautiful settings: the baptism in the river, teaching His disciples on the Mount of Olives, speaking on the waterfront, all-night prayer in His favorite garden, burial and resurrection in a garden, His encounter with Mary Magdalene and the healing of her grief in the garden early in the morning.

Christ must have understood that beauty enhances intimacy, healing, and learning. Because He was always centered, always in touch with and attentive to God, maybe Jesus' strategic settings were for our sakes.

As God began it all in Eden, God grants us another beginning in Gethsemane. The painful separation from God in Eden is put back together in Gethsemane. Beauty brings us into places of healing, as well as into God's presence.

(Adapted from Finding Life, pages 41-43)

<b>HC#213 – In the Presence of Jehovah</b>	HC-213	HCD20-T13
<b>Additional Optional Songs</b>		
<b>SB#6 – Eternal God, unchanging</b>	TB-246 - Aurelia	HTD3-T3 (3 vs.)
<b>SB#615 – Mid all the traffic of the ways</b>	TB-107 - Lloyd	HTD2-T1 (3 vs.)
<b>SB#619 – O God, if still the holy place</b>	TB-88 – French	HTD4-T1 (4 vs.)
<b>SB#624 – Our Father, who in Heaven art,</b>	TB-86 – Fewster	HTD3-T13 (4 vs.)
<b>HC#89 – Knowing You</b>	HC-89	HCD7-19
<b>HC#160 – I Surrender</b>	HC-160	HCD14-T20
<b>HC#205 – Closer Still</b>	HC-205	HCD19-T15
<b>HC#234 – Beneath the Cross</b>	HC-234	HCD22-T14
<b>HC#236 – Lord, I Need You</b>	HC-236	HCD22-T16
<b>HC#238 – O Great God</b>	HC-238	HCD22-T18

### Pastoral Prayer

### Message – The Goodness of God's Creation (Genesis 1:26-31; James 1:16-18)

<b>SB#459 – Tell me what to do to be pure</b>	TB-858 – Whiter than the snow	HTD9-T19 (3 vs.)
<b>HC#102 – Whiter Than the Snow</b>	HC-102	HCD9-T12
<b>Additional Optional Songs</b>		
<b>SB#416 – Give me a holy life</b>	TB-192 – Nuttall	HTD9-T13 (3 vs.)
<b>SB#425 – I want a principle within</b>	TB-86 – Fewster	HTD3-T13 (4 vs.)
<b>SB#445 – O for a humbler walk with God!</b>	TB-9 – Beethoven	HTD6-T4 (3 vs.)
<b>SB#474 – All to Jesus I surrender</b>	TB-377 – I surrender all	HTD5-T9 (3 vs.)
<b>SB#485 – Father, I know that all my life</b>	TB-135 – Spohr	HTD10-T14 (3 vs.)
<b>SB#495 – I'm set apart for Jesus</b>	TB-246 – Aurelia	HTD3-T3 (3 vs.)
<b>HC#235 – I Know a Fount</b>	HC-235	HCD22-T15
<b>HC#236 – Lord, I Need You</b>	HC-236	HCD22-T16

**Benediction**

<b>HC#239 – Fountain/Doxology</b>	HC-239	HCD22-T19
<b>Additional Optional Songs</b>		
<b>HC#112 – The Potter’s Hand</b>	HC-112	HCD10-T12
<b>HC#149 – In Christ Alone</b>	HC-149	HCD13-T19
<b>HC#161 – My Great Redeemer’s Praise</b>	HC-161	HCD15-T11
<b>HC#198 – In Jesus’ Name</b>	HC-198	HCD18-T18

<b>Lent 2016 – Week #1</b>	
<b>DRAMA</b>	
<b>Mighty God</b>	
<b>By Martyn Scott Thomas</b>	
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<b>Topic:</b>	God, Creation
<b>Scripture:</b>	John 1:1-3, 14; Revelation 5:12
<b>Synopsis:</b>	Readers discuss the role of Christ in Creation.
<b>Characters:</b>	Reader 1 Reader 2
<b>Props/Costumes:</b>	None.
<b>Setting:</b>	Bare stage.
<b>Running time:</b>	3 minutes

[*Readers face the congregation and recite as one reader.*]

**Reader 1:** In the beginning was the Word,

**Reader 2:** And the Word was with God,

**Reader 1:** And the Word was God.

**Reader 2:** He was with God in the beginning.

**Reader 1:** Through him all things were made;

**Reader 2:** Without him nothing was made that has been made.

**Reader 1:** [*stopping to think – to Reader 2*] Nothing?

**Reader 2:** [*to Reader 1*] Nothing.

**Reader 1:** Fish?

**Reader 2:** Fish.

**Reader 1:** Birds?

**Reader 2:** Birds.

**Reader 1:** Worms?

**Reader 2:** Worms.

**Reader 1:** What about the stars?

**Reader 2:** He made them.

**Reader 1:** And the sun?

**Reader 2:** He made that, too.

**Reader 1:** The moon?

**Reader 2:** The moon.

**Reader 1:** [*thinking*] What about man?

**Reader 2:** He made man, too. He even placed him in the garden.

**Reader 1:** What garden?

**Reader 2:** The Garden of Eden – you know, Paradise.

**Reader 1:** Oh, that garden.

**Reader 2:** Yes, that garden.

**Reader 1:** Wait a minute, I thought he was a man.

**Reader 2:** He was a man. But he was also God.

**Reader 1:** The God?

**Reader 2:** The One and Only.

**Reader 1:** And he created everything?

**Reader 2:** Without him nothing was made that has been made.

**Reader 1:** What about roses?

**Reader 2:** He made the roses.

**Reader 1:** And the thorns?

**Reader 2:** Even the thorns he would later wear.

**Reader 1:** What about trees?

**Reader 2:** He made the trees. Even the one on which he would later be hung.

**Reader 1:** What about stones?

**Reader 2:** Even the one used to seal His tomb.

**Reader 1:** So, He made everything.

**Reader 2:** Everything.

*[Readers turn back to congregation.]*

**Reader 1:** In the beginning was the Word,

**Reader 2:** And the Word was with God,

**Reader 1:** And the Word was God.

**Reader 2:** He was with God in the beginning.

**Reader 1:** The Word became flesh

**Reader 2:** And made his dwelling among us.

**Reader 1:** We have seen his glory,

**Reader 2:** The glory of the One and Only,

**Reader 1:** Who came from the Father,

**Reader 2:** Full of grace and truth.

**Reader 1:** Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,

**Reader 2:** To receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength

**Both:** And honor and glory and praise!

*[Blackout]*