

April 14, 2024|
Worship Guide

Welcome

Rev. Ann Willet

Centering Music

Come, Follow Me

Cantabile Chorus

John Hilton

Greater Dallas Choral Society for

Children and Youth

Kimberley Ahrens, Conductor

Invitation to Worship: *Keeper of the Light*

Linda Noblin

Written by Linda Noblin

*Wrapped in the warp of time the keeper of the
light watches.*

*Ten thousand drops of melting snow
cup in quiet eddies*

until they have their fill and overflow.

*Steadily they drip in silent rivulets seeking their
kind.*

And melding their voices to others,

they murmur a gentle hymn

of skittering twigs and polished stones.

Ten thousand drops more join the song

And their waters stream,

a flowing dance that splashes and scatters

glittering sparkles kissing the sun.

*The voice of ten thousand times ten thousand
drops
broadens and deepens,
moving in counterpoint
to other voices, nimble and light.*

*And streams become a river
and the river flows on
building layer upon layer
a truer song.*

*The music builds to a roaring crescendo;
the drops leap to a thousand deaths over the
precipice
to be born again
in the frothing cascade below.*

*Plants wrenched from their rooted path
and rocks torn from the earth
are pulled into the fray.
Careening and clanging shards are tossed;
smashing and sifting, they become fine beads of
sand*

*and the ten thousand times ten thousand drops
drawn to the place of their birth,
spit from the mouth of the river
a golden ribbon of sand.*

Opening Song

God's Is A World of Beauty

AURELIA

Words by John Bell

and Tune by Samuel Wesley

***God's is a world of beauty in land and sea
and air;***

*aesthetics born in heaven the ocean depths
declare.*

*Both harmony and discord emerge from
mother earth,
while sunset sky and thunder proclaim their
Maker's worth.*

*God's is a world of beauty in creatures and
in kind;*

*diversity and contrast reveal God's lively
mind.*

*In intellect and language, in gender and in
race,*

*our differences bear witness to variegated
grace.*

*As God is our Creator and all God's image
bear,*

*we each are blessed with talents to treasure
and to share.*

*Thus painter, potter, poet, composer, dancer,
mime,*

*enable form and beauty in symbol, sound,
and time.*

*We thank you, Holy Spirit, for all that you
inspire,*

*for unattained perfection to which we still
aspire;*

*and for our Savior Jesus whose crafted
words reveal*

divine imagination, true beauty, ever real.

Children's Lesson

Jen Hanson

A Prayer of Reflection

Rev. Ann Willet

Our Common Prayer

Blessed One, Holy is your name. May your love be enacted in the world. May your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For all that we do in your love, and all that your love brings to birth, and the fullness of love that will be, are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture

Ezekiel 47:1-12

Dr. Kendra Weddle

Then my guide brought me back to the portico of the Temple, and I saw water flowing out from beneath the foundation of the Temple toward the east, for the facade of the Temple was toward the east. The water ran along the southern side of the Temple to the right of the altar. My guide then took me outside by the north gate, and around to the outer gate facing the east, where I saw a thin stream of water on the southern side. After that, my guide took me to the east with a measuring rod and measured off 1,000 cubits. But now there was a river too deep for me to wade. The water was so deep that it could be crossed only by swimming.

My guide then said, "Note well what you see, mere mortal," and brought me to the edge of the river, where I sat. I noticed many trees along the bank of the river on both sides. My guide then said, "The water flows into lands to the east and down to the Arabah. It will empty in the sea whose waters are salt and it will be made fresh. Every living creature that wanders upon the face of the earth will be drawn to the river and will find refreshment there. There will be an abundance of fish, for wherever these waters flow and everything they touch will be renewed. Anglers from En-gedi to Engelaim will stand along the banks casting their nets. The fish will be rich in variety, like the fish of the Great Sea. The swamps and marshes, however, will not be made fresh: they will be left for salt.

"Fruit trees of every kind will grow along both banks of the river. Their leaves will never wither and their fruit will never fail. They will produce fresh fruit, for they will be nourished by the waters flowing from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be food, and their leaves will be medicine."

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Mike House

Sharing of Our Gifts

Darryl Leavitt

Offertory

The Echo Child

Cantabile Chorus

Text by Mary Ely Baker (Age 9)

& Music by Randall Thompson

Greater Dallas Choral Society for

Children and Youth

Kimberley Ahrens, Conductor

& Jim Wilson, Collaborative Pianist

The Greater Dallas Choral Society for children and youth is the premiere choral ensemble for singers in grades 4–8 throughout Dallas-Fort Worth. GDCS proudly carries forward the 25 year old legacy and mission of the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas, which is to give children and youth an experience in choral artistry in a group that reflects the diversity of Dallas.

In our first two seasons under the name GDCS, we have been named as "the official children's chorus of The Dallas Opera," collaborated with Dallas area arts groups, and performed in beautiful venues throughout the city. The 2024–2025 season boasts collaborations

with The Dallas Opera, the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra, the Dallas Winds, performances at the Meyerson Symphony Center and the Winspear Opera House, an appearance at the national convention of the American Choral Directors Association, and the joy of children and youth creating beauty with their voices. GDCS has three children's choruses for singers in grades 4–8, and two high school choruses for singers in grades 9–12.

Kimberley Ahrens is a nationally recognized choral conductor, educator, and clinician with more than 20 years' experience enriching children and youth through the study and performance of the choral arts. Recipient of the 2022 Choral Director of Distinction Award from the Texas Choral Directors Association, Ahrens is currently founding Artistic Director of the Greater Dallas Choral Society for Children and Youth (GDCS), which was established in 2022 to carry on the legacy of the prestigious Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas (CCGD). GDCS was recently named official children's chorus for The Dallas Opera, and will be featured at the national convention of the National American Choral Directors Association in 2025.

For eighteen years, Ahrens taught choir in the Texas public school system, leading her ensembles to national awards and performances at major conferences for the Texas Music Educators Association and American Choral Directors Associations. In 2009, she received the Texas Choral Directors Association's Distinguished Young Director Award. She also served nine years as principal conductor for CCGD.

An expert in the adolescent voice, Ahrens is regularly engaged as a clinician and guest conductor for elementary- and middle-school honor choirs throughout the United States. She has also taught at the university level as an adjunct professor and guest lecturer at Southern Methodist University, Abilene Christian University, Texas Tech University, and Florida State University. She holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Texas Christian University and a master's degree in music education from The University of North Texas.

Affirmation of Faith

Dr. Kendra Weddle

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things, and is present in all things.

We believe earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with all creation.

We believe that God became a piece of earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us.

Who showed us how to love one another and to care for all.

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

Closing Song

Praise the Source of Every Blessing

LAUDA ANIMA

Words by Jann Aldredge-Clanton

Praise the source of every blessing, bringing goodness to the earth,

Loving every living being, filling all with sacred worth.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Radiant life she brings to birth.

Praise the way of holy justice, leading us to work for right;

Join to heal all wounded nature, fractured, poisoned, scarred with blight.

Voices raised to stop destruction, we will labor day and night.

*Praise the well of Holy Wisdom, flowing deep
within our souls,
Guiding us to save creation, careless action
to control.
Still conserving, still protecting, we will
make earth safe and whole.*

*Praise the great Creative Spirit, birthing
beauty everywhere,
Moving us to loving action, that her
treasures all may share.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Earth calls for our tender
care.*

Benediction

Rev. Mike House

Sending Forth

Bourée from "Water Music"
Larry McCain & Jim Wilson
G.F. Handel