

**“Praise the Lord!”**  
Message by DD Adams  
Praise and Worship Service 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
Kemptown Providence U.M. Church  
December 30, 2018

Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. <sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. <sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. <sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at his command they were created, <sup>6</sup> and he established them for ever and ever he issued a decree that will never pass away.

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, <sup>8</sup> lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, <sup>9</sup> you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, <sup>10</sup> wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, <sup>11</sup> kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, <sup>12</sup> young men and women, old men and children.

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. <sup>14</sup> And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the LORD. This is God’s word for God’s people.

Lord we pray your blessing on the reading, hearing, and understanding of your word today. Let God be praised! Amen.

I'd like to focus on verses 7-10. Listen to it again. <sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, <sup>8</sup> lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, <sup>9</sup> you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, <sup>10</sup> wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds . . .”

What are we to make of this? Well yes! God has made all of creation—in the earth and from the earth fulfill his command to do his will and word! In verse 7, the seas and the great monsters and creatures operate within the boundaries that God has created for them. Some of God's earthly animals are vicious and poisonous, some are destructive, yet they're all made to praise the Lord!

Verse 8 speaks of lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that fulfill God's command to do his will and word. All carry out his commands as an act of praise as God displays his power for all to see. We see water and fire in all of their rituals and combinations. All accomplishing their purpose.

And verses 9 and 10, “. . . mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, <sup>10</sup>wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds . . .” From the highest mountains to the lowest hills God causes life to spring forth.

What's the so what in this message? All of the earth is under God's command, but the earth is also in rebellion against God as Romans 8:22 states, “We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.” When we sing, *Joy To the World* we sing that “fields

and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy” of praise. And also, “no more let sin and sorrow reign, nor thorns infest the ground.” In “*Angels, from the Realms of Glory,*” we sing “all creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal three in one.”

All creation wants to be released from the curse of sin which allows pain and death into our world. We look to a future prospect of a joyful deliverance for all of creation. As followers of Christ, we have a call to praise God! And that’s a response within us that’s relational because we know God.

When we praise God it turns us away from ourselves and toward the one who created us. When we praise God, our hearts are turned to God and become more closely connected with God’s heart. We have a call to praise God! So as part of creation, let’s determine to praise the Lord. For when we praise the Lord, we acknowledge to God and to others that the Lord is lord, and we are not. Amen.