

But for some children, camp is not always accessible. When needs are more complex, when extra care, training, or equipment is required, families can be left wondering if there is a place where their child will be able to participate and truly belong.

Through Mission and Service partners, that answer is yes.

At Pearce Williams Summer Camp & Retreat Facility, inclusion is part of the foundation. Staff are specially trained. Adaptive and sensory supports are built into the experience. Care is taken to ensure that every camper can participate fully and safely.

At Pearce Williams, inclusion is more than access. It is about belonging without barriers. Children are not sitting on the sidelines, but fully part of camp life, joining in the singing, swimming, creating, and connecting alongside others. It means families can trust that their children are not just welcomed, but fully supported.

Our gifts to Mission and Service help make this possible. They provide the tools, training, and care needed to ensure no child is turned away because their needs complex.

Every child deserves a place at camp, and every child deserves to know they belong. Make your gift to Mission and Service today.

Call to Worship

Before the world began, God's Spirit moved over the deep, dark waters like a gentle breath. Let us come together to wonder at the God who spoke into the silence and filled the universe with light.

We gather to marvel at everything God has made: the vast blue oceans and the solid ground beneath our feet, the tiny seeds in the earth and every living creature on the land and in the sea. We look at the sun, the moon, and the stars, and we are amazed by the beauty of our world.

God looked at everything that was created and called it "very good." Come, let us see the goodness in each other and in all of creation as we worship our wonderful Creator together.

Sung Call to Worship VU 376 *"Spirit of the Living God"*

**¹ Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**2 Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!**

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Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

As we light our candles this morning, we consider the vastness of a God who spoke the universe into being, and we acknowledge how small our own perspectives can sometimes be.

A moment of silent reflection: What do you picture when you think of God creating the heavens and the earth? Does it feel remote and distant to you? Have your ideas of God's creation changed since you were a child or do you still see familiar "Sunday School" flannelgraphs in your head? Can you allow yourself to wonder at a God who is completely beyond our control, yet intimately present in every breath?

Listen to God's words for you this morning from the book of Genesis:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good.

Opening Prayer

Creator God, we come to you today with hearts full of wonder. We look at the world around us—the bright sky, the deep oceans, and the life in every living thing—and we are amazed by your imagination.

Open our eyes this morning so we can see your fingerprints on everything you have made. Help us to feel your Spirit moving among us, just as it moved over the waters at the very beginning. Fill us with awe as we worship you, the Maker of all things. Amen.

Opening Hymn VU 264 *"Immortal invisible, God Only Wise"*

**1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise;
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**

**4 Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee!**

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Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

Gracious God, you looked at everything you made and called it very good. We confess that we often fail to see that goodness in ourselves, in others, or in the world around us. We get caught up in our own small worries and forget to stand in awe of your vast and beautiful universe. We have tried to limit you to our own understanding, forgetting that your Spirit is as boundless as the stars and as deep as the ocean. Forgive us for the ways we have mistreated your creation and for the times we have lived without wonder. Help us to start fresh and to see your light shining in the darkness once again. Amen

Assurance of Love

Even when the world felt like a formless void, God's Spirit was there, moving with love over the waters. That same love reaches out to us today. Know that the One who created the heavens and the earth also created you, and in God's eyes, you are "very good." In the name of the Creator who spoke light into being, you are forgiven, loved, and welcomed home. Amen.

Theme Conversation

Wow!

Our Scriptures Today

Genesis 1: 1–2: 4a

Reflection

Hymn

VU 672

"Take Time to be Holy"

**1 Take time to be holy, speak oft with your Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.**

**2 Take time to be holy, let him be your guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.**

**3 Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
you soon shall be fitted for service above.**

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Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music

Offering Response VU 542 "We Give You But Your Own"
**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

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Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Holy God, you formed the world with care and called it good. We bring our prayers to you today, standing in awe of your power and trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made.

We pray for the earth, your great masterpiece. We ask for your help in caring for the oceans, the forests, and the air we breathe. Teach us to live with wonder for the natural world so that we might protect it for those who come after us.

We pray for all people across this vast planet. In places where there is chaos or fear, let your Spirit move like a peaceful wind. Bring light to the dark corners of the world, and help leaders to act with the same kindness and wisdom you showed at the very beginning.

We pray for our own community and for those we hold close to our hearts. For those who are sick, those who are lonely, and those who feel like their lives are a formless void right now—remind them that you are present in the silence and the struggle. Give them rest and cause your light to shine upon them.

We thank you for the gift of life and the beauty of this day. Help us to walk through this week with open eyes and open hearts, ready to find your "very good" goodness in everyone we meet.

Today, we have special prayers for:

Joy	Leah	Jennifer	Mark
Liam	Serge	Sandy	The Olson
Shirley	Lainey	Ellen & Art	family-loss of
Janet	James	Robin	Chris
Carol	Brynnley	Grace	
Kim H.	Kim P.	Haley	
Fran	Ellen Jane	Bill	

And as a community we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:

Our Father....

Closing Hymn VU 315 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

¹ Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!

**Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**² Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.**

**³ Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.**

**⁴ Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

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Living our Faith this Week

This week, consider the moments of awe and wonder you encounter in your daily life. Are you taking the time to notice the "very good" goodness that God has placed in the world and in the people around you? What habits can you cultivate—perhaps a slow walk outside or a moment of quiet gratitude—to help you see God's fingerprints on the ordinary parts of your day? By living with a sense of wonder, how can you reflect God's light so that others might feel the warmth of God through your way of being?

Commissioning and Benediction

Go in peace, and may the peace of God, which shines brightly and vanquishes our darkness, always be with you. Go, knowing that God is your rock and your refuge. You are not alone. God is always with you. AMEN.

Sung Benediction

**Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of everyday.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching us in love.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen**
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