This is the Day that the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it. Psalm 118:24

*Opening Prayer (Have one person read this out loud)

It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. —Psalm 92:1-2, NIV

Songs of Praise and Hope¹ (The words to the songs have been provided below for singing or reflection. If you would like to sing along with a video or simply listen to the music, please either click on the link provided, look it up on Youtube, or play your own instrument if possible.)

O Worship the King https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAI5pWbjKQc

O worship the King, all glorious above; and gratefully sing His wonderful love, our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, and sing of God's grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space; His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, and dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air; it shines in the light; It streams from the hills it descends to the plain, And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail, Thy mercies how tender! How firm to the end, Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPsxqQsnzJA

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down; Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love thou art; Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

¹ All songs covered by CCLI License #20557596

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee with Thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be; Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee: Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

The Church's One Foundation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-AzLnm1Tws

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord; She is His new creation By water and the Word: From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride; With His own blood He bought her And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth, Her charter of salvation One Lord, one faith, one birth; One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food, And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation And tumult of her war, She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore; Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest, And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union With God the Three in One, And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won; O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, Like them, the meek and lowly, On high may dwell with Thee.

Bible Text and Sermon (To access the sermon video/audio and worship liturgy, please visit our website at **idealparkchurch.com** and click on the "**Current Sermon Series**" tab for August 16. This will be available Monday, August 17. From there, click on "**Watch Now**" or "**Read Now**" or **Hymnsing.**

Message title: "A New Eden" ____ Pastor Chris Bouma

Scripture: Revelation 21:22-22:7

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. 1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his

face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.⁶ The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."

⁷ "Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."

Sermon Outline

Characteristics of the Garden

- God walks freely (Gen. 3:8)
- A river (Gen. 1:10)
- A tree (Gen. 1:9)
- The garden is shut (Gen. 3:24)
- Parallels in New Creation
 - No temple (Rev. 21:22)
 - A river (Rev. 22:1)
 - A tree (Rev. 22:2)
 - The city is open (Rev. 21:24)

What this all means

- All are welcome (Rev. 21:26)
- No curse (Rev. 22:3)
- All of this can happen because of ______

As we wait...

Discussion questions:

- What parallels are there between Eden and the scene described in Revelation 21 and 22?
- What in your life do you count as "good"? What might these good things be like in the New Creation?
- The text implies that we will be in God's presence in heaven. How do you begin to experience this presence even now?

Prayers for our church, community, nation, and world (Read these as you feel led, either out loud or silently.)

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit God,

You have given us everything. Not only did you create us, but you provide for our every need. We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good. Your love endures forever.

When we turned away from you, you reached down to us. You lifted us up and freed us through the gift of your Son. We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good. Your love endures forever.

You are with us always. You watch over our coming and our going. Your Holy Spirit guides us and leads us every step of our lives. We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.

For your abundant grace we give you thanks. Gratefully we offer the ourselves to you. We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good. Your love endures forever.

Use our time, our talents, and our gifts for your glory. May it bless others with hope, peace, and joy.

It is in Jesus' precious and Holy name that we pray. Amen.

Song of Praise and Hope (The words to the songs have been provided below for singing or reflection. If you would like to sing along with a video or simply listen to the music, please either click on the link provided, look it up on Youtube, or play your own instrument if possible.)

We Bow Down

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rjmBNKk-4w

You are Lord of creation and Lord of my life Lord of the land and the sea You were Lord of the heavens before there was time And Lord of all lords You will be

We bow down and we worship You, Lord We bow down and we worship You, Lord We bow down and we worship You, Lord Lord of all lords You will be

You are King of creation and King of my life King of the land and the sea You were King of the heavens before there was time And King of all kings You will be

We bow down and we crown You the King We bow down and we crown You the King We bow down and we crown You the King King of all kings You will be

Blessing: "The LORD bless you and keep you, the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26