

Lara Glass: Good morning.

Speaker 2: Good morning.

Lara Glass: Welcome to morning prayers. Please stand as you are able for a responsive reading from your black Appleton Psalter, Psalm number 152, found on page 77.

Lara Glass: Man puts his hand to the flinty rock and overturns mountains by the roots.

Congregation: He cuts out channels in the rocks, and his eye sees every precious thing.

Lara Glass: He binds up the streams so that they do not trickle and the thing that is hid, he brings forth to light.

Congregation: But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?

Lara Glass: Man does not know the way to it and it is not found in the land of the living.

Congregation: The deep says, "It is not in me," and the sea says, "It is not with me."

Lara Glass: It cannot be gotten for gold, and silver cannot be weighed as its price.

Congregation: Whence then comes wisdom, and where is the place of understanding?

Lara Glass: It is hid from the eyes of all living and concealed from the birds of the air.

Congregation: Abaddon and Death say, "We have heard a rumor of it with our ears."

Lara Glass: God understands the way to it and he knows its place.

Congregation: For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.

Lara Glass: When he gave to the wind its weight and meted it out the waters by measure.

Congregation: When he made a decree for the rain and a way for the lightning and the thunder.

Lara Glass: Then he saw it and declared it. He established it and searched it out.

Congregation: And he said to man, "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding."

Lara Glass: You may be seated.

Choir: Singing.

Gina McCarthy: I'd like to read two passages. The first one from Rachel Carson, who was a scientist who inspired the start of the environmental movement. And the second, a number of quotes from Greta Thunberg, a young woman who, 50 years after the first Earth Day, is inspiring a global climate change movement. First Rachel Carson, from A Sense of Wonder. "A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement. It is our misfortune that for most of us, this clear-eyed vision, that true instinct for what is beautiful and awe inspiring, is dimmed and even lost before we reach adulthood. If I had influence with the good fairy who was supposed to preside over all of the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift for each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life as an unfailing antidote against the boredom and disenchantment of later life, the alienation from the sources of our strength."

Gina McCarthy: And Greta Thunberg. "We children are doing this to wake the adults up. We children are doing this for you to put differences aside and start acting as you would in a crisis. We children are doing this because we want our hopes and our dreams back. We're not destroying the biosphere because we are selfish. We are doing it simply because we are unaware. Humanity is now standing at a crossroads. We must now decide which path to take. How do we want the future living conditions for all species to be like?"

Gina McCarthy: It's been my life's mission to protect the precious natural resources that we all need and to survive and to thrive. I've worked for President Obama as the administrator of the U.S. EPA and I have worked for Harvard as the director of the center for climate health and the global environment and I am now heading to NRDC, the Natural Resources Defense Council to take up the position of CEO and president of that organization.

Gina McCarthy: And I do this because I listened to the words of Rachel Carson many years ago and I listened to the voice of Greta Thunberg today. I want each child to experience the wonder of nature, and I want every adult to meet their moral responsibility to our children and to hand them a world that is truly wonderful, a world that is filled, like it was for me, with hikes up Blue Hills, jumps into Sharon Lake, nights on the Cape Cod beach counting the stars and realizing that the problems we face are insignificant and minuscule in comparison to the beauty of the world that God gave us.

Gina McCarthy: As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in April this year, let's all work together to face the reality that climate change is happening and let's commit to fix it now, not for the planet, for ourselves and for our families. And I'd like to offer a short prayer if I may.

Gina McCarthy: Dear Lord, please listen to our children. Please help us make a special effort to talk to them because Dear Lord, many of them are worried and they're afraid. They need us to pay attention, to understand, to talk to one another about the

climate crisis. And Dear lord, please give us the courage to keep our children's hopes and dreams alive.

Gina McCarthy: I'd like to ask that we now stand and celebrate the Lord's Prayer together. Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Congregation: Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Lara Glass: Please stand as you are able to sing Hymn Number 97 in your Crimson Memorial Church Hymnal. The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came. And Number 97.

Congregation: (singing)

Lara Glass: In the words of John O'Donohue, "May we live this day, compassionate of heart, clear in word, gracious in awareness, courageous in thought, and generous in love." Amen.

Congregation: Amen.