

Hope Presbyterian Church
Adult Faith Formation Sermon-Based Bible Study

August 30, 2026

"Wonder"
#1 in the series *God on Film*

Scripture Text (CEB)
Psalm 8



1. In a scene from the 1997 film "Contact," Jodie Foster's character, Dr. Ellie Arroway, an aerospace scientist, witnesses a breathtaking celestial light show from inside her spaceship and says, "No words to describe it... Poetry! They should've sent a poet. So beautiful... beautiful... so beautiful."
 - What does Dr. Arroway mean when she says, "They should've sent a poet."?
 - Have you ever been wonder-struck, even speechless, by something you saw or experienced?
 - What did you see or experience?

2. **Read Psalm 8:1-3.**

Sometimes we encounter wonders on a grand scale; sometimes we experience a "small wonder."

- How would you define the meaning of wonder?

David sees God's hand in the creation of the heavens and the universe when he "looks up."

- Why might intentional looking - paying attention - be described as a spiritual practice?

3. **Read Psalm 8:4-5.**

David pivots from acknowledging God's creation of the universe to His wondrous creation of each human being within it.

- Why do you think he asks, "What are human beings that you pay attention to them?"

Theologian James May uses the term "God-remembered mortal" to remind us of our worth.

- Why do we often believe that we'll matter only if... (You finish the sentence.)?

4. **Read Psalm 8: 6-8.**

David acknowledges that God has allowed us to "rule over" His creation.

- What does that mean?
- How can we exercise our rule or power in ways that encourage our families and communities to flourish?

5. **Read Psalm 8:9.**

How do you respond to the idea that "wonder" rightly orders us in the following ways:

- Our attention: Looking beyond ourselves
- Our identity: Remembering our identity
- Our power: Encouraging those around to flourish
- Our worship: Loving and serving our Creator

6. How can we pray for you?