



Service of Worship  
Earth Sunday  
April 26, 2020 10:00am

## Gathering

PRELUDE

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

arr. John Leavitt

Linda Dover, organist

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

CALL TO WORSHIP *(spoken together)*

**God is active in our world; bringing hope and healing. God calls us to see beyond ourselves, and to join in loving care for all those around us. We accept God's call, and we rejoice in the gift of community.**

**The whole of God's creation is groaning, crying out in pain; stressed by the heavy impact of human use. We name the earth as part of our community. We extend our love to all of God's creation.**

**We are people of faith who gather to worship God the creator and redeemer of the world. We come seeking to be transformed by God's compassionate love. We praise with joy the world's creator, God of justice, love and peace!**

HYMN 37

“Let All Things Now Living”

ASH GROVE

A VISIT WITH STEWART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(spoken together)*

**Creator of the earth and all living things, maker of the sky and the air and the breath of life, God of all that is: we are your servant people, created out of the clay of the earth itself. We forget that we are your creatures and we play at being gods. We neglect the work of stewardship that you have provided for our occupation and our joy. We have used, abused, and abandoned those things that you have created for your delight. You have created a fragile world in a perfect and delicate balance. Thinking too much of our own importance we have upset the balance. We ask your forgiveness, Holy and Righteous God. We yearn to join with the mountains and valleys, the rocks and the birds of the wild ocean waters in singing your praises.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The prophet says,

"Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls." (Jeremiah 6:16)

We are standing at a crossroads. Together let us seek the good way and find rest for all of God's creation.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you and all others!**

HYMN 764

"For the Troubles and the Sufferings" PELAS DORES DEST MUNDO  
*(Chancel Ensemble 1<sup>st</sup> time through; All 2<sup>nd</sup> time through)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(video: A Prayer for Our Earth)*

## Equipping

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 9:8–19 (CEB\*)

Lauren Smith, Confirmand

8 God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 "I am now setting up my covenant with you, with your descendants, 10 and with every living being with you—with the birds, with the large animals, and with all the animals of the earth, leaving the ark with you. 11 I will set up my covenant with you so that never again will all life be cut off by floodwaters. There will never again be a flood to destroy the earth."

12 God said, "This is the symbol of the covenant that I am drawing up between me and you and every living thing with you, on behalf of every future generation. 13 I have placed my bow in the clouds; it will be the symbol of the covenant between me and the

earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, 15 I will remember the covenant between me and you and every living being among all the creatures. Floodwaters will never again destroy all creatures. 16 The bow will be in the clouds, and upon seeing it I will remember the enduring covenant between God and every living being of all the earth's creatures." 17 God said to Noah, "This is the symbol of the covenant that I have set up between me and all creatures on earth."  
18 Noah's sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth came out of the ark. Now Ham was Canaan's father. 19 These were Noah's three sons, and from them the whole earth was populated.

ANTHEM

"Look at the World"  
Chancel Ensemble

by John Rutter

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 8:18–25 (CEB\*)

18 I believe that the present suffering is nothing compared to the coming glory that is going to be revealed to us. 19 The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters. 20 Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice—it was the choice of the one who subjected it—but in the hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from slavery to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of God's children. 22 We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. 23 And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. 24 We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? 25 But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"The Earth is Waiting"

Rev. Sue Trigger

[Sending](#)

SOLO

"Because He Lives"  
Cindy Schendel, soprano

by Gloria & Bill Gaither

*God sent his son, the called him Jesus. He came to love, heal, & forgive.  
He lived and died to buy my pardon. An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.*

*(Chorus) Because he lives, I can face tomorrow. Because he lives, all fear is gone.  
Because I know he holds the future and life is worth the living, just because he lives.*

*How sweet to hold a newborn baby and feel the pride and joy he gives.*

*But sweeter still the calm assurance this child can face uncertain days, because he lives. (Chorus)*

*And then one day, I'll cross the river I'll fight life's final war with pain.*

*And then, as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns. (Chorus)*

## A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lauren Smith, Confirmand

### HYMN

"God, You Made Your Good Creation"

BEACH SPRING

**God, you made your good creation and you hold it in your care —  
From each starry constellation to each forest under-layer.  
Tiny creatures, mountain splendor, rivers, lakes and ocean floors —  
You are loving, kind and tender in your care for what is yours.**

**Yet, O God, the earth is crying, times are changing, storms are strong.  
Now the coral reefs are dying, floods are raging, droughts are long.  
Though the circumstances differ, when the earth is in distress,  
See! The poor are first to suffer from our greed and selfishness.**

**God, you love this world we live in, so you sent your only Son.  
"Here on earth as in your heaven," God, we pray, "Your will be done."  
By your Spirit, may we listen to the earth and to the poor;  
May we care for all you've given till creation is restored.**

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### CHARGE & BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

"Trumpet Tune in C"  
Linda Dover, organist

by David Lasky

*\*Common English Bible*

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