

# The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter – Earth Sunday



**Preparation** “God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.”  
Genesis 1:31

## Prelude

*Aria*

Flor Peeters

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

## Greeting and Announcements of the Church

Rev. Peggy Huston

## Introit

*For the Fruit of All Creation [#36]*  
Natalie Sweeney, Soloist

## Call to Worship:

Barbara Given, Liturgist

One: In the midst of darkness & chaos...

All: **God imagined.**

One: In the fury & darkness...

All: **God imagined a world filled with trees,  
and blue skies and fluffy white clouds.**

One: In the meadow, God stood and...

All: **imagined foxes, bluebirds, and slithering snakes.**

One: In a world of rainstorms and wildlife and cattle and grasses blowing in the breeze...

All: **God imagined humanity.**

One: In a world teeming with billions of people...

All: **God imagined me.**

One: God imagined you and God imagined me. We are created in the image of God.

All: **God imagined us all. God loves each of us.**

One: Let us worship with the same imagination as the Creating One!

All: **Amen.**

## Prayer of Confession:

Barbara Given, Liturgist

One: God of Endless Mercy, we have often been swallowed up by our greed and selfishness,

All: **desiring that which we do not have, filling our lives with things that do not save us.**

One: We have often been swept away by the floods of our own making,

All: **polluting your creation, neglecting to be faithful stewards of the earth.**

One: We have often attacked one another and led lives of violence,

All: **sending missiles instead of accepting refugees, ignoring your commandments.**

One: Lord have mercy, for we have sinned and fallen short of your glory.  
All: **Christ have mercy, for we are broken and need your salvation.**  
One: Lord have mercy upon us and hear us as we pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
All: **Amen.**

*(silent time of confession)*

### **Promise of the Gospel**

Barbara Given, Liturgist

One: Look to creation's order and know justice...  
Look to grace and know its forgiveness...  
Look to what brings life and live its example...  
Look to God's covenant and know its love...  
All: **The heavens are telling the glory of God. In Christ we are forgiven. Amen**

### **Hymn #23**

*God, You Spin the Whirling Planets, vs. 1-3*  
[Pleading Savior]  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

### **Children's Sermon**

Peggy Huston

### **First Scripture Lesson**

Psalm 4

Barbara Given, Liturgist

### **Second Scripture Lesson**

Acts 3: 11-19a

Rev. Peggy Huston

### **Sermon**

"Miracles Don't Happen Anymore, Do They?"  
Rev. Peggy Huston

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Barbara Given, Liturgist

We believe in God the Creator,  
who created and is creating everything:  
the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;  
each of us, unique, individual and beloved of God.  
We believe in God the Christ,  
who saved and is saving everything:  
the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;  
each of us; unique, individual and beloved of the Christ.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who guided and is guiding everything:  
the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;  
each of us, unique, individual and beloved of the Spirit.  
We believe that this one God in three persons,  
is present among us,  
working directly in our lives  
and the lives of all who are born into this world,  
striving to bring us back into harmony  
with all creation and with God:  
forgiving, healing, touching everyone,  
never rejecting any who willingly receive  
this freely offered gift of love and grace and eternal life. **Amen**

Written by Lisa Frenz, Thanksgiving Liturgy

**Special Music**

*How Can I Keep From Singing?*

arr. Taylor Davis

Maria Schoon, Soloist

Connor Koppin, Piano

**Offering**

Barbara Given, Liturgist

**Prayers of the People**

Barbara Given, Liturgist

Refrain: One: Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*"...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..."*

**Minute for Mission**

Green Team Update

Jennifer Gordon

**Hymn #38**

*To Bless the Earth*, vs. 1-4

[Christus, Der Ist Mein Leben]

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

**Benediction**

Rev. Peggy Huston

**Response**

*Let All Things Now Living* [#37]

Maria Schoon, Soloist

**Postlude**

*Christus, Der Ist Mein Leben*

setting: Johann Gottfried Walther

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

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Rev. Peggy Casteel-Huston, Interim Minister

Rev. Alice Fleming Townley, Assistant Pastor

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Connor Koppin, Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

Sue Schnackenberg, CE Director for Youth & Children

Edward Ennen, Sexton

Anna Thiel, Office Manager

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