

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos  
May 1, 2022  
Third Sunday of Easter



**COVID-19 Safety Recommendations**

- *Wear a mask while singing in the sanctuary, and when interacting with young children.*
- *Remember that young children are not vaccinated.*

**Preparation:** *"All religions accept and promote the Golden Rule—to love your neighbor as yourself. The climate crisis demands that we expand the Golden Rule to include future generations as our neighbors.... Two in three Americans think global warming is happening (67%), yet most Americans (65%) rarely or never discuss it." Jim Antal, pastor and national spokesman on climate change for the United Church of Christ.*

**Prelude** *Christus, Der Ist Mein Leben* Johann Gottfried Walther  
[Christ Is My Life's Salvation]  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

**Greetings and Announcements of the Church** Bill Given

**Call to Worship** Scott Locke, Liturgist

One: I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.

**All: My God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

One: The earth reeled and rocked; the foundations also of the mountains trembled. In my distress I called upon the Lord.

**All: From God's temple my cry was heard.**

One: The Lord reached down from on high and drew me out of mighty waters.

**All: God delivered me, because God delighted in me.**

One: God is a shield for all who take refuge.

**All: Let us worship God!**

\* **Hymn #38** *To Bless the Earth* (Psalm 65), vs. 1-4  
[Christus, Der Ist Mein Leben]

**Prayer of Confession** Scott Locke, Liturgist

One: By the grace of Jesus Christ we are beloved children of God, members of God's own family. With the confidence of beloved children, let us confess our sin.

**All: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Yet we put aside your majesty, too often seeking our own power and gain. We set**

**aside our responsibility for the earth entrusted to our care. By both carelessness and design, we pollute air, land, and waters. In our greed, we use more resources than we rightly need. We confess that we do not fully comprehend the damage we have done to the birds of the air, the creatures of the sea, and the animals that live in forests and fields.**

*Silent Prayer*

**Forgive us, we pray. Let your majesty fill our senses, and pervade our actions, that we may become better stewards of creation. Call us to care for one another so that all your people flourish. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**Promise of the Gospel**

Scott Locke, Liturgist

**One:** Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\* Act of Praise #581**

*Gloria Patri*

**Children's Sermon**

Ewen & Zora Todd

**Prayer of Illumination for Meditations on Earth Care**

Bill Given

O God, whose Word is like water to the root of the tree, let your Word now flow into us that we might flourish—bearing gospel fruit for a hungry world. In the name of Jesus, the Living Word, we pray. Amen

**Scripture Reading**

Genesis 2:15

Bill Given

**Meditation**

*To Till it and to Keep It: What might that require of us Today?*

Bill Given

**Scripture Reading**

Psalm 65

Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz

**Meditation**

*Woe to the Shepherds*

Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz

**Affirmation of Faith**

Dorinda VanKempen

I believe in God, the Creator and Lord of all that is.  
In your hand is the life of everything--  
of trees and plants, animals and insects--  
and the breath of every human being.

I believe in Jesus the Christ, the Redeemer of all that we have damaged,  
our broken souls and our broken world,  
who offers new life when we love our neighbors,  
neighbors sun and soil, water and air.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer of this community and future generations,  
and the source of hope and courage to care about creation,  
especially when sustainability seems hopeless.

We promise to work together and with God, to be stewards of this gift, our home and inheritance.

**Anthem** *The Earth Adorned* Waldemar Åhlén  
PCO Chancel Choir

**Minute for Mission** Cass Community Social Services Ellen Hoekstra

**Offering** Dorinda VanKempen, Liturgist

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*Elevation*

Dom Paul Benoit

\*Doxology #606

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Prayers of the People** Dorinda VanKempen, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer** "...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..."

\* **Hymn #757** *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*, vs. 1-4  
[Kingsfold]

**Benediction** Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz

The Lord bless each of us and keep us safe in this world under you loving care. Now send us out to be earth-carers in our communities. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Alleluia! Amen.

**Postlude** Fanfare on *Dix* David Lasky  
[For the Beauty of the Earth]  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

**Ushers:** *Jeff and Michele Arbour, Kent Workman, Jennifer Gordon*

**Adult Ed:** *No Adult Ed following the service. Please join us from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. for a Nature Walk and Trash pick-up. We will leave from and return to the PCO parking lot.*

The Call to Worship was adapted from Creation Justice Ministries - Earth Day 2022  
<https://www.creationjustice.org/>

The Prayer of Confession, the Prayer of Illumination for Meditations on Earth Care, the Invitation, Prayer of Dedication, and Prayers of the People are adapted from Feasting on the Word. Worship Companion Year C. Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.

The Affirmation of Faith was adapted from Eco Stewards For the Faith and Environment Conference, Montreat, NC

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