

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
April 23, 2023
Third Sunday of Eastertide
Creation Care Worship Service



Preparation: “The future of our fragile, beautiful planet home is in our hands. As God's family, we are stewards of God's creation. We can be wantonly irresponsible, or we can be caring and compassionate. God says, "I have set before you life and death... Choose life." - Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Prelude *Three Chorale Miniatures on Dix* Michael Burkhardt
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Choral Introit *My Eyes For Beauty Pine* Herbert Howells
PCO Chancel Choir

*My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for Goddès grace,
No other care nor hope is mine, to heaven I turn my face.*

*One splendor thence is shed from all the stars above:
Tis named when God's name is said, Tis Love, tis heavenly Love.*

*And every gentle heart that burns with true desire,
Is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.*

Invitation to our Shared Ministry Kent Workman, Liturgist

Land Acknowledgement Kent Workman, Liturgist

Call to Worship Jeff Conroy-Krutz, Liturgist

One: The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and all that dwells therein.

All: **We live in God's world, we are not alone. We share this life with the heavens and the earth, with the waters and the land, with trees and grasses, with fish, birds, and animals, with creatures of every form, and with all our brothers and sisters.**

One: God saw all that was made, and behold, it was very good.

* **Hymn #14** *For the Beauty of the Earth*, vs. 1-4
[Dix]

Prayer of Confession Jeff Arbour, Liturgist

One: We are made in the divine image, and God called us good. Yet we go our own way, causing harm to ourselves, to one another, and to the planet. Confident in the mercy of the One who made us and saved us, let us confess our sin to God and to another.

All: **Giver of life, you created us in your image to care for one another and for all creation. In the midst of poisoned water and polluted air, we groan with creation. In the midst of mountains of waste and rising seas, we groan with creation. Have mercy on us. Forgive us**

**for turning away from you, ignoring the needs of our neighbors and the cries of the earth.
As the sun brings light and warmth to this earth, make us agents of healing for the
good of your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.**

Promise of the Gospel

Jeff Arbour, Liturgist

One: Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.
God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

Passing of the Peace

Jeff Arbour, Liturgist

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be
with you.

All: **And also with you.** *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

*** Act of Praise #581**

Gloria Patri

Children's Sermon

Dorinda van Kempen

Children's Worship Experience

Children ages 3-8 may depart for the Children's Worship Experience in the Chapel after the Children's
Sermon.

Prayer of Illumination

Brian McWilliams

Gracious God, your Word is a living word. By your Spirit awaken us, that we may see and hear your
presence in the world and in the scripture that we read today. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
our healer and our guide. Amen.

Scripture

Isaiah 58:8-12

Brian McWilliams

Sermon

Raising Foundations

Brian McWilliams

Choral Anthem

I Will Be Earth

Gwyneth Walker

PCO Chancel Choir

*I will be earth, you be the flower,
You have found my root, you are the rain,
I will be boat, and you the rower.
You rock me and toss me, you are the sea.*

*How be steady earth that is now a flood.
The root is the oar afloat where has blown our bud.
We will be desert, pure salt the seed.
Burn radiant love, born scorpion need.*

Minute for Mission

Advent House Meals

Ellen Hoekstra

Offering

Jeff Conroy-Krutz, Liturgist

Invitation

Offertory

Noël Nouvelet
(French Carol)

Setting by Michael Burkhardt

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Kent Workman, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

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

*** Hymn #247**

Now the Green Blade Rises, vs. 1-4
[Noël Nouvelet]

*** Benediction**

PCO Green Team Members and Congregation

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

PCO Green Team Members include: Jeff Arbour, Ellen Briggs, Jeff Conroy-Krutz, Jerri Gillett, Bill Given, Jennifer Gordon, Judi Harris, Scott Locke, Mickey Martin, Brian McWilliams, Ewen Todd, Dorinda Van Kempen and Kent Workman

Postlude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Gelobt Sei Gott
Setting by Michael Burkhardt

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Education Time: The Green Team will be presenting two short videos for discussion that speak to the challenges of migrating to a clean energy economy.

Ushers: *Ellen Briggs, Scott Locke, Jeff Arbour & Jennifer Gordon*

Flowers: *The flowers beautifying the sanctuary today were given by members and friends in honor and remembrance of loved ones.*

This Morning's Fellowship Team: *Thank you to members of the Green Team for supplying snacks for our time of fellowship and to Edward Ennen for preparing coffee.*

Next Week's Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

Next Week's Education Time: Following the service there will be an opportunity to greet the youth leading our worship service and celebrate graduating seniors: Sophia Jildeh, Sophia Juarez, and Henry Nawyn-Hellinga.

The Prayer of Confession, Promise of the Gospel, and Prayer of Illumination are adapted from the Service for the Care of Creation, *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018.

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Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Colleen Chester, Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
Anna Thiel, Office Manager