

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
April 21, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter



Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Partita on *Dix*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Dennis Janzer

Choral Introit

To Bless the Earth
PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Bill Given

Land Acknowledgement

Kent Workman

* **Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 104)

Kent Workman

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, you are very great!

All: You are clothed with majesty and splendor.

One: You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak and stretch out the heavens like a tent.

All: You set the earth upon its foundations; you covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

One: You made the springs into rivers that flow between the mountains.

All: You made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows the time of its setting.

One: In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

All: May the glory of the Lord endure forever!

* **Hymn #247**

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

Prayer of Confession

Jeff Arbour

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: God of life, you created us in your image to care for one another and for all creation. Too often we fail to open our eyes to the devastation in our world. We struggle to move from doing what is easy to doing what is necessary and right. We fail to prioritize the needs of community over the convenience of self. Forgive us for turning away from you and ignoring the needs of our neighbors and the cries of the earth. Help us to better assume our roles as stewards and protectors of the Earth.

(silent prayer) Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and the Passing of the Peace

Jeff Arbour

One: The good news of Easter morning is that sin and death do not have the last word. We are forgiven and receive new life.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

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

The Word

Prayer of Illumination

Jennifer Gordon

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 hear today. May it move us to action as your servant people. Amen

Children's Message

Jennifer Gordon

Scripture Readings

Job 12:7-10
Matthew 6:25-29

Jeff Arbour

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

Dr. Gretel Van Wieren

Sermon

All the Trees of the Field Shall Clap Their Hands
Dr. Gretel Van Wieren

Anthem

For The Beauty of the Earth
PCO Chancel Choir

John Rutter

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

*For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For each perfect gift of thine, to our world so freely given,
Graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heaven,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

Responding to the Word

Offering

Jeff Conroy-Krutz

Invitation

Offertory

Fugue on *Noël Nouvelet*

Richard Hudson

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Ewen Todd

One: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

in unison

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sent Out As a People of God

* Hymn #14

For the Beauty of the Earth, vs. 1-4

[Dix]

* Benediction

Dr. Gretel Van Wieren

Postlude

Toccata in F Major

Dietrich Buxtehude

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Adult Education Time: *Nature, Spirituality and the Interconnectedness of All Beings:*

Practicing Kinship with Creation. Dr. Gretel Van Wieren, MSU Professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy.

Ushers: Jeff Arbour, Ellen Briggs, Bill Given, and Scott Locke

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Green Team members Ellen Briggs, Jerri Gillett, Mickey Martin and Emmie McKillips for supplying vegan snacks this morning and to Brett & Lynn Cone and Dave Rumminger for taking care of the coffee.

Next Week April 28, 2024

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Adult Ed: The Journey to 2030 Visioning Team will give a report.

The Prayer of Confession and Prayer of Illumination are adapted from *Plastic Jesus: Real Faith in a Synthetic World* produced by the Creation Justice Ministries <https://www.creationjustice.org/> and the *Book of Common Worship*, PC(USA). Westminster John Knox Press, 2018.

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Westin Sorrel (he/him), Chancel Choir Director
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