

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church  
of Howard County

*Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Earth Day Celebration  
April 21, 2024*

*10:30 a.m. In-person & Livestream Service*

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## GATHER

*Let all enter the sanctuary in a spirit of prayer.*

Words in **bold** are read by the congregation.

*\*please stand if you are able.*

Please remember to turn your cell phones to silent.

*This worship service is being livestreamed to the internet,  
and you may appear on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.*

*For our online congregation - Let us know you are here! Post a greeting!*

*And remember that you can place a request in the Prayer Journal  
in the comments on both You Tube and Facebook Live.*

### Prelude

All Creatures of Our God and King

*Geistliche Kichengesäng, arr. V. Labenske*

### Lighting the Christ Candle

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

**Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives.**

### Call to Worship

"O Lord, our Lord,  
the majesty of your name fills the earth!  
Your glory is higher than the heavens."

We gather to worship you!

**"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...**

**And God saw that it was very good..."**

**We gather to worship our God!**

**All praise, honour, majesty and power**

**belongs to our Creating God!**

**Amen.**

\* Hymn 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

*Dix*

*(see next page for hymn)*

# For the Beauty of the Earth 14

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

*Refrain*

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

TEXT: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

## **Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, Maker of all:

**Have mercy on us.**

Jesus Christ, servant of the poor:

**Have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit, Breath of life:

**Have mercy on us.**

**O God, maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is, seen and unseen:**

**You place us in your creation,**

**and you command us to care for it.**

**Your works declare glory and splendor,**

**and you call us to praise and reverence.**

**Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty,  
forgive us.**

**Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted,  
have mercy upon us.**

**Where we have become estranged  
from the creatures with whom we share this planet,  
grant us your peace.**

**Renew us in the waters of baptism,  
refresh us with the winds of your spirit,  
and sustain us with the bread of life.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ,  
and for the sake of the new creation, we pray.**

**Amen.**

*(A time of silence is kept during which individual confessions may be offered.)*

### **Assurance of Grace**

\* **Response of Praise 587** (singing together)

*Alleluia!*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, D, E, A, D, E on the first staff and A, E, Bm, E, A, D, E, A on the second staff.

\* **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

*(We share peace with a nod or a bow, perhaps with hand on heart  
or folded hands, or with the ASL sign for peace. If worshipping from home,  
greet each other by sending a text, a wave or comment on Facebook or YouTube.)*

\* **Response of Praise 243** (singing together)

*Be Not Afraid*

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!  
Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The image shows two systems of musical notation. Each system consists of a vocal line in treble clef and a bass line in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: "Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!"

**Words of Welcome**

*Please fill out the red Friendship Pad in each pew.  
Newcomers please leave us your address and contact information!  
Then, pass the folder the length of the pew and back.*

# ENCOUNTER

## Prayer for Illumination

**First Lesson:** Genesis 1:26-31

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." <sup>29</sup> God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

*Afterwards, children ages 4-7 may go with Ms. Kathy Moore to Godly Play.*

*Parents can pick up their children following worship in Rooms 110 & 113.*

*Older children, grades 2-5, may go with Ms. Virginia Callegary to The Worship Bridge.*

*They will return to the sanctuary later in the worship service.*

*(It is the church's policy to not put images of children on the livestream.)*

**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.**

**Anthem**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

*Charles Dupree*

**Second Lesson:** Exodus 34:6-8

<sup>6</sup>The Lord passed before him, and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means clearing the guilty, but visiting the iniquity of the parents upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." <sup>8</sup> And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.

For the Word of God in Scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
For the Word of God within us:

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

What Does the Bible Have to Say About Climate Change?

Kenneth Page

## **RESPOND AND SERVE**

\* **Affirmation of Faith** (*together*)

**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.**

\* **Hymn 713**

Touch the Earth Lightly

*Tenderness*

*(see next page for hymn)*

# 713 Touch the Earth Lightly

Capo 3: (G) (Dsus) (D) (Em) (Bsus) (Bm)  
 B<sup>b</sup> Fsus F Gm Dsus Dm

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,  
 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,  
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,  
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

(C) (D7) (G) (Am7) (Dsus) (D)  
 E<sup>b</sup> F7 B<sup>b</sup> Cm7 Fsus F

nour - ish the life of the world in our care:  
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,  
 wa - ter that bless - es and air that is sweet,  
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

(G) (Dsus) (D) (Em) (Bsus) (Bm)  
 B<sup>b</sup> Fsus F Gm Dsus Dm

gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,  
 we who would fos - ter clouds of di - sas - ter,  
 health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,  
 teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

(C) (G) (Em) (Am7) (D) (G) (G)  
 E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Gm Cm7 F B<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>

1-3 4

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.  
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!  
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.  
 us - ing us gent - ly and mak - ing us one.

An Australian aboriginal saying opens this gentle hymn from New Zealand on the stewardship of creation. "Clouds of disaster" in the second stanza refers to the testing of nuclear devices then occurring in the Pacific Ocean, but the concern for all created things is timeless.

**Concerns and Remembrances**

**Prayers of Gratitude and Concern**

**Concluding Prayer** *(together)*

**Jesus, Lord of the earth  
By you all things were created,  
For you all things were created,  
In you all things now hold together,  
In you all things are made new.  
And all creation cries Amen!**

**The Offering**

**Offertory**

Terra Patris

*Franklin L. Shepherd, arr. M. Hayes*

**\* Doxology 609** *(singing together)*

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Praise God, in Je-sus ful-ly known: Cre-a-tor, Word, and Spir-it one. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!" Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, A, D, Bm, A, D, G, D, Bm, E, A, D, D, G, A, D, Em, A, Bm, Em, D, G, A, Em, G, A, D.

**\* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**



# SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

Minute for Mission – Coffee Run & Fun

Lisa Whipkey

\* Hymn 26

Earth and All Stars!

Earth and All Stars

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

## 26 Earth and All Stars!

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!  
 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!  
 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers! Sing to the  
 4 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!

Lord a new song! Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing  
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming  
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing  
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing

snow - storm!  
 cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done  
 work - ers!  
 mem - bers!

mar - vel - ous things. We too sing prais - es with a new song!

This lively text was written for the 90th anniversary of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Echoing Psalm 98, it is a prime example of a 20th-century hymn style based on phrases rather than complete sentences. The exuberant tune was created expressly for these words.

TEXT: Herbert Frederick Bookering, 1964  
 MUSIC: David N. Johnson, 1968  
 Text and Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House (admis. Augsburg Fortress)

EARTH AND ALL STARS  
 4.5.7.D with refrain

\* **Benediction**

\* **Response 745** (singing together)

*Now Go in Joy*

Now go in joy to spread the Word till all peo-ple have  
heard: God em-brac-es all! Fol-low, then, the dis-  
ci-ples' call: tend your neigh-bors with lov-ing care  
in dai-ly work and prayer. God's own  
grace em-pow-er your spir-it. A-men!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols (G, Am7, D, Am, D7) are placed above the notes to indicate the accompaniment. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

**Postlude**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

*Franz Josef Haydn, arr. R. J. Hughes*



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## WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, education, mission and common life of First Church.*

### During Today's Worship

**Please turn all cell phones to "silent" when in the Sanctuary.** Flash photography during worship is not permitted. Please, no food or drink in the Sanctuary.

**If your infant or child needs care** during the worship service, you may leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. Child care for infants and children under four years old is available all morning. The nursery is in Room 159. We have a texting system to alert you if you are needed while in the worship service. The ushers will be glad to help you.

### If you are new to First Church

**Communion** is served on the first Sunday of each month.

**Disabled persons entrance** is through the Main Entrance in the rear of the building.

**We invite you to become a member** of First Church. Please speak with Pastor Ken or call the church office to set a time to meet.

### First Church Cares

**To notify the pastor** of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Pastor Ken Page, [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)

### Interested in the mission and activities of First Presbyterian Church?

Visit the church's website, [www.firstpreshc.org](http://www.firstpreshc.org) for more info.

### Program Staff

If you need to talk with one of the staff, please contact them directly via email.

Rev. Kenneth Page, Interim Pastor, [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)

Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education, [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)

Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries, [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)

**For building emergencies contact**, Church Sexton, Woody Collins, [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)



## The First Presbyterian Church

of Howard County

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045

410.730.3545 | [www.firstpreshc.org](http://www.firstpreshc.org)

*Ministers: All members of the congregation*

Kenneth Page, Interim Pastor

Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education

Dr. Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries

Caroline Smith, Church Administrator

Pat Travers, Bookkeeper

Woodrow Collins, Church Sexton

Kathy Moore, Godly Play Coordinator

Marla Youkers, Nursery Coordinator

Sarah Reinhardt, Nursery Assistant

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County is a congregation of the Presbyterian of Baltimore in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

✦ We are an Earth Care Congregation ✦

✦ We are a Matthew 25 Congregation ✦

*Inspirit Counseling Services* at First Presbyterian Church

Meredith Barger

410-433-8861 x104 | John Michalczyk

410-433-8861 x115

