

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 19)*

One: "How clearly the sky reveals God's glory!"  
All: **"How plainly it shows what the Lord has done!"**  
One: "Each day announces it to the following day."  
All: **"Each night repeats it to the next."**  
One: "No speech or words are used, no sound is heard."  
All: **"Yet their voice goes out to all the world and is heard to the ends of the earth."**  
One: God gives us this world to rejoice and be glad in it.  
All: **Let us give our thanks and praise to God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" GtG 32

1. **I sing the mighty power of God  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad  
and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day.  
The moon shines full at God's command,  
and all the stars obey.**
  
2. **I sing the goodness of the Lord  
who filled the earth with food.  
God formed the creatures through the Word,  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,  
where'er I turn my eye,  
if I survey the ground I tread,  
or gaze upon the sky!**

*(continued...)*

3. **There's not a plant or flower below  
but makes thy glories known.  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
by order from thy throne,  
while all that borrows life from thee  
is ever in thy care,  
and everywhere that we can be,  
thou, God, art present there.**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1715, alt.

Music: *Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Württembergischen  
Katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784; alt. 1868  
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### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Dear God, you have blessed us with the beauty of this world and all the good gifts in it. But we do not take very good care of your gifts. And we are not very good at telling you, "Thank you." Forgive us, O Lord. Teach us how to care better for your creation. Help us to appreciate the true beauty of the world, that we might work to share that beauty with others. For it is in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**One:** God knows us better than we know ourselves. God knows when we do wrong, and when we fail in the way God wants us to go.  
**All:** **But God is also patient and kind, loving us always.**  
**One:** So we seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us and laid down his life for us.  
**All:** **So we rejoice in the good news, that through Jesus Christ we can know forgiveness for our sins ... and help in living better lives.**

#### THE PEACE

**One:** The peace of Christ be with you.  
**All:** **And also with you.**

*(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)*

### THE WORD

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Genesis 2 (selected)  
Hosea 4:1-3

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** “To Borrow, or Sing the Blues” by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “Touch the Earth Lightly” GtG 713

**1. Touch the earth lightly,  
use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder,  
ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

**2. We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster,  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**

**3. Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God’s garden,  
hope in God’s children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.**

**4. God of all living,  
God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us,  
Christ reconnect us,  
using us gently and making us one.**

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1991

Music: TENDERNESS, Colin Gibson, 1992

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## **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**One:** As creatures made in God's image, what responsibility do we have for the earth?

**All:** **God commands us to care for the earth in ways that reflect God's loving care for us. We are responsible for ensuring that earth's gifts be used fairly and wisely, that no creature suffers from the abuse of what we are given, and that future generations may continue to enjoy the abundance and goodness of the earth in praise to God.**

(from *The Study Catechism: Full Version*, Copyright  
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## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**One:** God of mercy, Creator of goodness...

**All:** **...hear our prayer.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER (Contemporary)**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

*Invitation*

*Reflection*

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**We thank you, God, for birds that sing and rain that waters the earth. We thank you for all the resources of the world that provide us with so much goodness, joy, and life. As we bring our offering, accept also the offering of our hearts, as we recommit ourselves to caring for all you have created in love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## SENDING

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “God of the Fertile Fields” GtG 714

**1. God of the fertile fields,  
shaper of earth that yields  
our daily bread:  
forth from your bounteous hand  
come gifts your love has planned,  
that all in every land  
be clothed and fed.**

**2. We would be stewards true,  
holding in trust from you  
all that you give;  
help us in love to share,  
teach us like you to care  
for people everywhere,  
that all may live.**

**3. As grows the hidden seed  
to fruit that serves our need,  
so your reign grows.  
Let all our toil be used,  
no gift of yours abused,  
no humble task refused  
your love bestows.**

**4. God of the countryside,  
dear to the Christ who died  
to make us one:  
we pledge our lives anew  
in faithful love to you.  
Guide all we say and do.  
Your will be done.**

Words: Georgia Harkness, 1955, alt.  
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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One:           ...And let the gathered people of God say...  
All:            ...**Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

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