

April 25, 2021 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM:

Mary Lou McMillin, 25th

Mark Facknitz, 30th

Bill Painter, 30th

GATHERING SONG: No. 14 – “For the Beauty of the Earth”, v – 4 and refrain

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:

(Refrain)

Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

“All the world has come alive; all the earth is budding.

Bees are humming round the hive, done with winter brooding.

Snow and frost have been undone, winds are soft and tender;

High above the regal sun, shines in all its splendor.

This our joy, this our hope; this our great surprising.

Young and old, and best and least, see their own arising.

We, the newborn pattern are, of our God, our Maker.

Christ our spring beyond compare, Christ our good Creator.”

Let us worship God with our opening hymn “All Creatures of our God and King.”

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 15 - “All Creatures of Our God and King”

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind with clouds and rain,
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for your Lord to hear.
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother fire, so warm and bright,
chase off the shadows of the night.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds such blessings on our way,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
so, even in the midst of tears,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part,

and worship God with humble heart.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (REPONSIVE):

Giver of Life in the midst of a plundered earth, we groan with creation:

Have mercy on us.

Giver of Life in the midst of poisoned water, we groan with creation:

Have mercy on us.

Giver of Life in the midst of polluted air, we groan with creation:

Have mercy on us.

Giver of Life in the midst of mountains of waste, we groan with creation:

Have mercy on us.

Giver of Life in the midst of rising seas, we groan with creation:

Have mercy on us.

Giver of Life, forgive us and make us agents of healing for the good of
your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

Time for Silent Confession

Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE: NO. 251 "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia" (Verse 4)

Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.

He has arisen this world to save.

Jesus' redeeming labors are done.

Even the battle with sin is won."

(Refrain)

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.

Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living, alleluia!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 1:31, Psalm 104 and Matthew 6:25-33

SERMON: "This Fragile Earth Our Island Home"

SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 21 - "Many and Great, O God Are Thy Works"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from *A Declaration of Faith*

God made human beings along with all the other creatures
and charred humans to care for the earth and all that lives on it.

We acknowledge we share in the interdependence
that binds together all God creation.

Though God gives us the responsibility
to order, reshape and restore the world,
we hold the earth in trust
for future generations of living things.

The Lord forbid us to plunder, foul and destroy the earth.
The Lord expects us to produce, to consume, to reproduce
in ways that make earth's goodness available to all people
and reflects God's love for all creatures.

The Lord bids us to use our technical skills
for the beauty, order, health and peace of all creation.

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY: No. 37 – “Let All Things Now Living”, v- 1

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*FINAL HYMN: No. 20 - “All Thing Bright and Beautiful”

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: No. 250 – “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”, v - 3

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

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**April 25, 2021**

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*# 14 - For the Beauty of the Earth*

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*# 15 All Creatures of Our God and King*

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# 251 - *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*

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# 21 *Many and Great, O God Are Thy Works*

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# 20 *All Thing Bright and Beautiful*

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