



**commit your work to the LORD and
your plans will be established** *Proverbs 16:3*

INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



6624 Public Sq - office@ipcusa.org - (216) 524-6307 - ipcusa.org

EARTH SUNDAY

Third Sunday of Easter ~ April 23, 2023



C.J. Briggs, Music Director

Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

John Bair, Liturgist

Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

In the oldest creation story in our sacred scriptures, God bends down into the freshly created soil, picks up a handful, and breathes the breath of life into it.

~ GATHERING ~

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(from Luke 24:34)*

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalms 19, 24)*

The heavens declare the glory of God.

The earth proclaims God's handiwork.

The plants and trees show God's presence.

Let us join with creation in praising God.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it.

God has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.

Come, let us worship God.



*HYMN

WHEN THE POOR ONES

GTG #762

by José Antonio Olivar and Miguel Manzano

EL CAMINO

LITTLE FARMERS OF GOD

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

All: May God be with you there. Kids: May God be with you here.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of life, you created us in your image to care for one another and for all creation. 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 signs of your grace, through Christ, our light and life, we pray. Amen. *[Silent Confession]*

*RESPONSE

BE NOT AFRAID

GTG #243

Taizé Community and Jacques Berthier

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

...for in Jesus Christ we are restored.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

ALLELUIA

HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH!
Caribbean melody; arr. by John L. Bell (Refrain)

GTG #591



~ THE WORD ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

TORAH READING

GENESIS 2:4B-15

(CEB)

This is the good news we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

TOUCH THE EARTH LIGHTLY

GTG #713

by Shirley Erena Murray

TENDERNESS

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 24:13-35

(CEB)

SERMON

TO FARM AND CARE FOR

~ **RESPONDING TO THE WORD** ~

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*adapted from the Confession of 1967*)

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is God's sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

Now to the one who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

***RESPONSE**

DOXOLOGY

GTG #606

OLD HUNDREDTH

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

BLESSING FOR FARMS AND GARDENS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of creation, **hear our prayer.**



~ **SENDING** ~

***HYMN**

THE EARTH BELONGS TO GOD ALONE

GTG #715

by Adam M.L. Tice

MC KEE (SEE #317)

BENEDICTION

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

***SENDING**

GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN

GTG #541

by Jeremiah Eames Rankin (RANDOLPH)

Verse 1

POSTLUDE

Pieces of today's liturgy are from: *Book of Common Worship* (PCUSA); *Connections*, David Gambrell, ed.; *Call to Worship, Lectionary Aids*; *Presbyterian Outlook*, Teri Ott. *Sowing Seeds* from Creation Justice Ministries. Bulletins Images: Photographs by John Bair