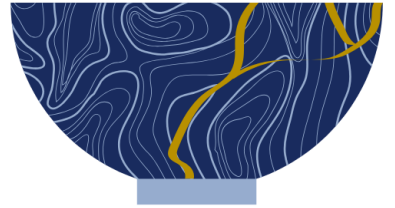


Sow Good News



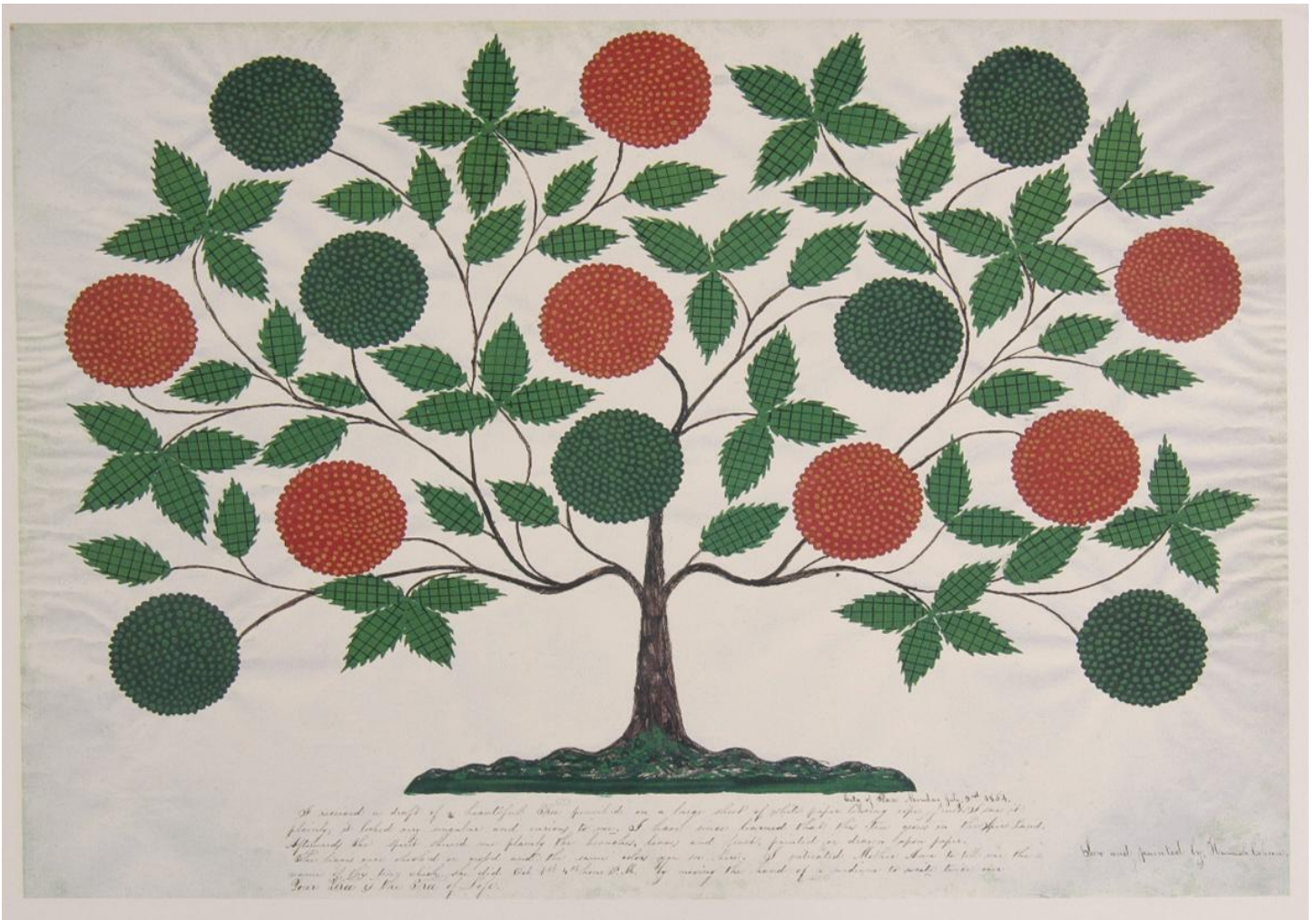
"We have this treasure in clay jars." (2 Corinthians 4:7)



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN
THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, April 14, 2024



C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

Gail Gronwall, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

*"Say that your main crop is the forest that you did not plant,
that you will not live to harvest. ... Practice resurrection. ~ Wendell Berry*

~ GATHERING ~

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(2 Corinthians 5)*

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

See, everything has become new!

*GATHERING

LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING
Kenyan (NENO LAKE MUNGU)

GTG #456
Refrain x2

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Genesis 1)*

When God began to create, God breathed over the surface of everything,
and said: “Let there be light”

And there was light. And it was beautiful.

And God said: “Let there be a sky”

And God saw that it was beautiful.

And God said: “Let the waters make room for land,
let the earth grow plants, and vegetables, and fruits”

And God saw that it was beautiful.

And God said, “let there be lights in the sky to separate day from night”

And God saw that it was beautiful.

“Let the waters swarm with life and let birds fly above the earth.”

And God saw that it was beautiful, and blessed them.

The next day, God said, “Let the earth bring forth every kind of living
creature: livestock, crawling things, and wildlife.”

And God saw that it was beautiful.

Then God said, “Let us make humanity in our image.

God blessed them and said to them,

“Nurture the earth and take care of it.”

Then God looked over creation:

And truly, it was very beautiful.

Come let us worship God.



*HYMN

GOD, WHO STRETCHED THE SPANGLED HEAVENS

GTG #24

by Catherine Cameron

HOLY MANNA

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

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

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Savior God, you guide us, but we are slow to follow. You welcome us to your fold, but we make others feel as if they don't belong. Forgive our ways, our exclusion and judgment; the way we evaluate and compare, demean and degrade. Redeem us. Restore us. Help us be faithful as your flock. Amen. [*Silent Confession*]

***RESPONSE**

CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (Roberts)

GTG #557

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

In Jesus Christ we are restored.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



***PASSING OF THE PEACE** (*Isaiah 52:7*)

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

~ LISTENING TO THE WORD ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 24:32-35, 45-46

CEB

This is the good news, shone in our hearts to give light of the knowledge of the glory of God. **We hold this treasure in jars of clay.**

HYMN

THE DAYS ARE SURELY COMING

GTG #357

by David Gambrell

LLANGLOFFAN

HEBREW BIBLE

GENESIS 1:26-31; 2:4-15

(*Select Verses*)

This is the good news, shone in our hearts to give light of the knowledge of the glory of God. **We hold this treasure in jars of clay.**

SERMON

TILL

~ **RESPONDING TO THE WORD** ~

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments. We violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. God is faithful still.

***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

***ALLELUIA**

HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH!

GTG #591

Caribbean melody; arr. by John L. Bell (Refrain)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

~ **GOING FORTH** ~

***HYMN**

I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD

GTG #32

by Isaac Watts

ELLACOMBE

***BENEDICTION**

How are we to proclaim unless we are sent:

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!

POSTLUDE