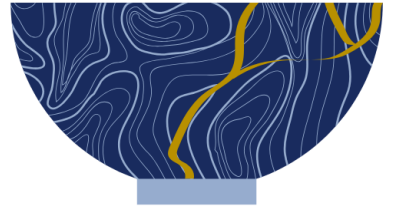


Sow Good News



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



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN
THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

EARTH SUNDAY

Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ April 21, 2024



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

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

A tree has roots in the soil yet reaches to the sky.

It tells us that in order to aspire we need to be grounded and that no matter how high we go it is from our roots that we draw sustenance. ~ Wangari Maathai

~ **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** (*from Creation Justice Ministries*)

We who too often lose our way gather today to say,
**“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it”**

For God founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

**“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it”**

We pause to ask ourselves again what it would be like to see
creation liberated and experiencing freedom and glory.

**“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it”**

Along with all creation we wait for the glory of God to be revealed
and we commit to playing our part, as the children of God.

**“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it”**

May we find healing for our land and water.
Come let us worship God.

***HYMN**

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HATH MADE
by Isaac Waatts, music by Johann Crüger

GTG #681

CHILDREN OF GOD

DOES EARTH FEEL?

by Marc Majewski

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

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

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we share one planet, and are one humanity formed of the dust of the earth, but we try to escape this reality. We profess our faith, but fail to listen to the needs of your children. We close our eyes in prayer, but fail to open them again to see the injustices around us. We raise our hands in praise to you, but fail to stretch them out once again to help those in need.

Forgive us. Help us shift our thinking. Let us answer the call to assist the Earth, to heal her wounds and the wounds of her people, and in the process heal our own. Through your Spirit, help us to embrace the whole of creation in all its diversity, beauty and wonder.

[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

HEBREW BIBLE

LEVITICUS 23

(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.**

HYMN

O DAY OF REST AND GLADNESS

GTG #393

by Christopher Wordsworth, Charles P. Price (ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN)

GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 21:15-19

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.**

SERMON

SHARE THE PLANET

~ *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

The earth is yours, and everything in it, **the world and all who live in it.**

~ *GOING FORTH* ~

***HYMN** WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME GTG #726
by John L. Bell and Graham Maule KELVINGROVE

***BENEDICTION**

How are we to proclaim unless we are sent:

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

POSTLUDE