



"So if anyone is in Christ,
there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!"
2 Corinthians 5:17

April 21, 2024, 11:00AM

4th Sunday of Easter | Earth Care Sunday

*In the spirit of Christ,
to love, to nurture, and to serve
one another, our communities and the world.*

Welcome to worship this Sunday! Wherever you are, God is present with you.
Let us now move from getting where we are to being present where we are, as we worship God.

PRELUDE

Lisa Jackert

Walk on the Water

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jonas Hayes

* Please rise in body or spirit

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

David Armes

Leader: Come, walk with the Lord this day.

People: We seek places of peace and rest from the stresses of our lives.

Leader: God, our Shepherd, will lead you to places where your soul will be restored,
renewed, and enlivened.

People: We come, sometimes fearful of the hostilities of the world.

Leader: In the midst of all the turmoil, God - our Shepherd - will provide for your needs
abundantly.

People: Surely these wonders will heal and restore our spirits. AMEN

OPENING SONGS

Hymnal No. 714

** God of the Fertile Fields*

**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.

Songbook No. 65

Grace That is Greater Than All Our Sin

Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within
Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that is greater than all our sin

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

David Armes

Gracious God, you know the times when we have not obeyed
your holy laws and commands.
There are times we have not respected your creation:
we have polluted the earth and wasted resources you have given us.
We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves.
There are times when we have overlooked people who are sick, poor,
homeless, and hungry.
We have not always been peacemakers:
we have used our privileges for our own good and ignored our enemies.
Forgive us, O God, and restore in us pure hearts and minds so that our actions reflect your
will, not ours. All praise and glory to you, O God. AMEN

SILENT PRAYERS AND CONFESSIONS

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God, in gracious love, gives us the awareness of how far we fall short of caring
for this earth and our brothers and sisters and the strength to change our lives.
Forgiveness is the pivot that turns repentance into reconciliation. Dear friends
and people of faith, hear and believe the Good News of the gospel!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Leader: Let us now greet one another with Christ's peace and compassion. Peace be
with you.

All: And also with you.

* SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE & COMPASSION

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Hymnal No. 411

God is Here Today

God is here today;
as certain as the air I breathe,
as certain as the morning sun that rises,
as certain when I sing you'll hear my song.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

COME AS A CHILD

Marion Park

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Hymnal No. 518, vs. 1 & 2

Lamb of God

**1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod,
and to become the Lamb of God.**

Refrain:

**O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood,
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

**2 Your gift of love, we crucified;
we laughed and scorned him as he died;
the humble King we named a fraud
and sacrificed the Lamb of God. (Refrain)**

SERMON

Jonas Hayes

Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes: Sustainable Faith

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS & BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

PRAYER OF BLESSING

*** CLOSING HYMN**

Hymnal No. 713

Touch the Earth Lightly

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,
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.

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!

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.

*** CHARGE**

Marion Park

*** BENEDICTION**

Jonas Hayes

POSTLUDE

Don't Let the Devil Take Your Mind

Jackie Greene

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Today's Call to Worship comes from Ministry Matters (Worship Connection: April 21, 2024), written by Nancy C. Townley.

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