



## Caring for God's Creation

### **A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS:**

We extend a warm welcome from Bethel Presbyterian Church!  
We invite you to participate in signing the Friendship Folders adding your name and address and if you desire a church newsletter or a pastoral call.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say "sins...sin against us" rather than "debts..." or "trespasses..."

Prayer requests can be noted on the cards provided in the pew racks and placed in the offering plate.

**The Service for the Lord's Day**  
**Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**April 24, 2022 - 11:00 AM**

*\* Indicates congregation standing if able.  
Congregational responses indicated in bold.*

**GATHERING AND GREETING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

*Please sign the Friendship Pad found in your pew, passing it down the pew then back.*

Prelude

Call to Worship (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: I love you, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.

**P: My God, my rock in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

L: The earth reeled and rocked;  
the foundations also of the mountains trembled.  
In my distress I called upon the Lord.

**P: From his temple he heard my focus  
and my cry to him reached his ears,**

L: He reached down from on high, he took me;  
he drew me out of mighty waters

**P: He delivered me, because he delighted in me.**

L: God's way is perfect;

**P: God is a shield for all who take refuge.**

Prayer of Invocation:

Let us pray:

God Most High, by your Word you created a wondrous universe,  
and through your Spirit you breathed into it the breath of life.

Accept creation's hymn of praise from our lips,  
and let the praise that is sung in heaven  
resound in the heart of every creature on earth,  
to the glory of the Father, and the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

\* Hymn No. 15 "ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING" LASST UNS ERFREUEN

(Verses 1 – 4)

*All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!*

*O broth-er sun with gold-en beam, O sis-ter moon with sil-ver gleam,  
sing prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia!  
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!*

*O broth-er wind with clouds and rain, you nur-ture gifts of fruit and grain.  
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!*

*O sis-ter wa-ter, flow-ing clear, Make mus-ic for your Lord to hear.  
Sing prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia!  
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!*

*O broth-er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad-ows of the night,  
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!*

*Dear moth-er earth, who day by day un-folds such bless-ings on our way,  
sing prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia!  
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!*

*All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row grieve,  
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!*

*Christ bears your bur-dens and your fears; so, e-ven in the midst of tears,  
sing prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia!  
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!*

\* Call to Confession

Let us be bold and confess our sin against God and creation.

\* Corporate Prayer of Confession

**Redeeming God, though we are created in your image we do not live in that image. You have made us caretakers of creation yet we exploit that creation for our own purposes. We pollute the air. We foul the rivers and streams. We poison the earth. In our attempts to make our lives more comfortable we make creation unsustainable.**

**Forgive us, O Creator. Call us back to your holy mandate to have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing. Call us back to our role as co-creators to join in the holy work of redeeming and restoring creation to you. Amen.**

\* Declaration of Forgiveness

God creates and loves creation, and God creates and loves us also.

Just as surely as God makes creation new each morning,

God offers us a new beginning each new day.

Sisters and brothers we are a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God. Amen

\* Sung Response No. 581 **“GLORY BE TO THE FATHER”**

GLORIA PATRI

***Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost;  
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be,  
world with-out end. A-men, a-men.***

THE WORD

Children's Moment

Choral Anthem

## Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

O Creator, your word comes to us by the power of the Holy Spirit  
which moves in and through us.

Calm us now and open us to hear your word anew. Amen.

## Readings from Scripture

Old Testament    Genesis 1:26-31

*The Message*

God spoke: “Let us make human beings in our image,  
make them reflecting our nature,

So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea,  
the birds in the air, the cattle,

And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.”

God created human beings; he created them godlike,  
reflecting God’s nature.

God created them male and female.

God blessed them:

“Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!

Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,  
for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.”

Then God said, “I’ve given you every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth

And every kind of fruit-bearing tree, given them to you for food.

To all animals and all birds, everything that moves and breathes,

I give whatever grows out of the ground for food.”

And there it was.

God looked over everything he had made;

it was so good, so very good!

It was evening, it was morning— Day Six.

Psalter        Psalm 8        (*Divine Majesty and Human Dignity*)        Pg. 466

Gospel        Matthew 6:25-32        (*Do Not Worry*)        Pg. 6

Sermon

The Reverend Nancy Coleman

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\* Affirmation of Faith

Hymnal Pg. 37, Sections 1-2

*God portion of The Brief Statement of Faith, 1991,  
The Book of Confessions, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

**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  
male and female, of every race and people,  
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.  
We deserve God's condemnation.  
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.  
Hearing their cry,  
God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.  
Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People      *(Prayers for the Earth from Anglican/Episcopal Tradition)*

God, creator of the universe, fill us with your love for the creation, for the natural world around us, for the earth from which we come and to which we will return. Awake in us energy to work for your world; let us never fall into complacency, ignorance, or being overwhelmed by the task before us. Help us to restore, remake, renew. Amen

Jesus, Redeemer of the World, Remind us to consider the lost lilies, the disappearing sparrows; teach us not to squander precious resources; help us value habitats: seas, deserts, forests and seek to preserve this world in its diversity. Alert us to the cause of all living creatures destroyed wantonly for human greed or pleasure; Help us to value what we have left and to learn to live without taking more than we give. Amen

Spirit of the Living God, At the beginning you moved over the face of the waters. You brought life into being, the teeming life that finds its way through earth and sea and air, that makes its home around us, everywhere. You know how living things flourish and grow, how they co-exist; how they feed and breed and change Help us to understand those delicate relationships, value them, and keep them from destruction. Amen.

God, of the living earth You have called people to care for your world – you asked Noah to save creatures from destruction. May we now understand how to sustain your world – Not over-fishing, not over-hunting, Not destroying trees, precious rain forest Not farming soil into useless dust. Help us to find ways to use resources wisely to find a path to good, sustainable living in peace and harmony with creatures around us. Amen.

Jesus, who raised the dead to life, Help us to find ways to renew what we have broken, damaged and destroyed: Where we have taken too much water, polluted the air, poured plastic into the sea, cut down the forests and soured fertile soils. Help all those who work to find solutions to damage and decay; give hope to those who are today working for a greener future. We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying,

The Lord's Prayer (*sins / sin against us*)

Hymnal, Pg 35

**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 sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Call to Offering

The Lord provides for us everything we need in this life.  
May we now offer our resources of money  
and the pledge to live our lives in accordance with your plan.

Offertory

\* Hymn No. 606 **“PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW”**

*Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;  
praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;  
praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host;  
praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.*

\* Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray:  
Lord, we thank you for your bountiful blessings and your tender mercies.  
Accept our gifts of money  
as a means to sustain the good thing you have started.  
Take our lives and make us aware of how much we need you  
and all you have made. Amen.



## THE SENDING FORTH

\* Hymn No. 14

“FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH”

DIX

*For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

*For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

*For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind de-light,  
For the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

*For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

*For thy-self, best gift di-vine to the world so free-ly given;  
for the great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

\* Charge and Benediction

Go now out into the wonderful and mysterious world.

Go and behold the beauty that is all around you.

Let yourself be blown by the wild wind.

Hear the birds and listen to the music of the ages.

Know that the Holy Spirit is in you and for you. Amen.

\* Sung Response No. 243

“BE NOT AFRAID”

*Be not a-fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!*

*Be not a-fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!*

\* Postlude

Minister: The Reverend Nancy Coleman

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Pianist: Judy Yeaworth

Liturgist: Dan Hyder

Video: Jake Horton

Sound: Adam Badger

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“Be Not Afraid”

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“All Creatures of Our God and King”

“Glory Be to the Father”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

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# Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

~ a community of faith coming together,  
for fellowship, study and service . . .  
seeking God's peace, justice and love ~