

Introduction to the day: Today we celebrate Earth Day and the Creator's gifts all around us. Our readings are full of sheep imagery. In the Bible, sheep exemplify God's good creation. Let sheep then be a reminder to us of God's good creation, by which we live, and in our wise use of which we give God thanks.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the diverse people of God.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We enter the song of Creation!

Earth cradles our ancestors, birthing new life.

We enter the prayer of Creation!

Sky brings darkness and light, holds storms and the stars.

We enter the praise of Creation!

Mountains peaked with snow, hills swaying with grasses.

We enter the silence of Creation!

Humanity between the ground and the heavens.

We come here, humbly, as one earthly family to worship our Creator: the giver of form, the maker of space.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Earth and All Stars

(ELW 731)

Please mute yourselves and sing verse 1 as Audrey plays



1	Earth	and	all	stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
2	Trum - pet	and	pipes!	Loud	clash - ing	cym - bals!	
3	En - gines	and	steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!	
4	Class-rooms	and	labs!	Loud	boil - ing	test tubes!	
5	Knowl-edge	and	truth!	Loud	sound - ing	wis - dom!	



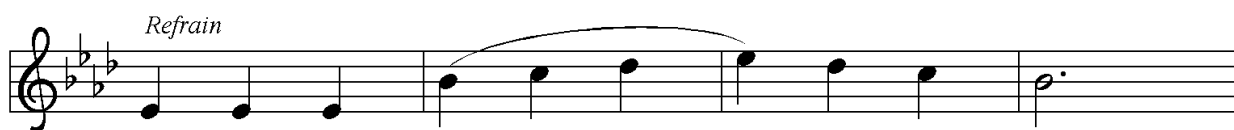
Sing	to	the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to	the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to	the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to	the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to	the	Lord	a	new	song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!
Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!
Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Refrain
God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + One God, who calls forth Creation, evokes praise from Creation, and stirs life in Creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, Creation, and one another.

God of righteousness and justice,

You have made the Earth and all that is in it, but we have failed to honor your good work. We do not recognize your presence among us, and our hardened hearts do not hear Creation's cry. We have made your good land a desolation, and we dishonor your image in our neighbors. Forgive us, in your steadfast love, O God, for trampling your vineyards and polluting your sky. On your holy mountain, call us again to be stewards of your Earth and to join all Creation in songs of praise.

Amen.

Rejoice, for the Incarnate Word has come to you. Laying aside all heavenly glory, the Servant of all is obedient unto death to make of you and all the Earth a new Creation. Rejoice, for Christ, from whom nothing can separate you, + forgives you all your sins. Rejoice, for the One whose name is majestic in all the Earth raises you up to newness of life.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12 (NRSV) (Bruce Seiler)

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 (Inclusive Bible) (Allen Dunn)

YHWH, you are my shepherd -
I want nothing more.
You let me lie down in green meadows;
You lead me beside restful waters:
You refresh my soul.
You guide me to lush pastures
For the sake of your Name.
Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,
I fear no danger, for you are with me.
Your rod and your staff -

They give me courage.
You spread a table for me
In the presence of my enemies,
And you anoint my head with oil -
My cup overflows!
Only goodness and love will follow me
All the days of my life,
And I will dwell in your house, YHWH,
For days without end.

KIDS' MESSAGE *(Jeri Wartena)*

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24 (NRSV) *(Nancy Garman)*

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?
Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18 (NRSV) *(Pr. Ron Zielske)*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



HYMN OF THE DAY *Morning Has Broken* (ELW 556)

Please mute yourselves and sing verse 1 as Audrey plays



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, admin. David Higham Associates

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God who creates all things to live in harmony – Heaven and Earth, Sea and Sky, Sun and Moon, Fish and Birds, Mountains and Valleys, Forests and Deserts, All animals great and small, all human beings – and cares for all creation as our perfect, loving parent.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, Who came to reveal the depth of God’s love for all creation, and teach us to live under God’s reign of justice, mercy, and compassion. Who suffered death on the cross to save creation from oppression, violence, and hatred, and free us from brokenness, sin, and self-conceit. Who raises us with him into new life to experience joy, peace, and unity with God and all creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, Who calls, equips, empowers, and helps us to reject hatred, oppression, and violence against anyone, and to extend justice and mercy, love and compassion to all created things – Earth, Creatures, and Humans – regardless of how similar or different we are from one another. Amen.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(Kary Pfennig)

O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen: Your great love has placed us in your creation, and you commanded us to care for it. Your works declare glory and strength, and you call us to praise and reverence. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace. Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

As we join together in celebration of the Earth, we know that there are many things that thwart our efforts and our responsibilities to your creation. The issues of the environment and conservation are often associated with differing political views. For the openness to learn about environmental issues and concerns, we pray: Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

In such a great and complex world, we often feel so small and helpless, as if what we do has no impact on the rest of your creation. Yet we know that because we are created in your image, we are connected with the entirety of creation, just as you are. For an awareness of how our own lifestyles can be modified to help protect the environment, we pray: Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

In an environmental catastrophe, the people who suffer first and greatest are often the poorest of the poor. Yet we rarely hear their voices, silenced as they are by the realities of global life. For those who live in poverty and suffer the devastating effects of flooding, drought, and other environmental issues, we pray:

Creator God,

hear our prayer.

In recent days, even the ground under our feet has begun to tremble, reminding us that we live together in a fragile community of life. For our own community, our city and state, we pray:

Creator God,

hear our prayer.

As members of this creation, we live and die according to the cycle of life that is common in all the world. For those in our midst who suffer from sickness and death, we pray:

Creator God,

hear our prayer.

God of the sun and the moon of the mountains, deserts and plains;

God of the mighty oceans, of rivers, lakes and streams;

God of all creatures that live in the seas and fly in the air;

God of every living thing that grows and moves on this sacred Earth,

we are formed by Christ into your people,

called to bring the world into your marvelous light.

As the Body of Christ, we are messengers of ecological vocation.

We are entrusted with caring for this Earth which you have created.

Help us to love and respect it, to repair what we have damaged,

to care for what you have made good and holy.

Give us the wisdom and the passion to change our mind, our hearts, and our ways.

Let us be the change we pray for, bringing about ecological conversion which grows and spreads to every corner of the Earth, for our sake now and for every generation which is to come.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness
we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.
Thank you so much for your continued support in these unusual times.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving Creator,

you brought us forth from the very earth itself. We share with others what you have entrusted to us. Bless these offerings, and compel us to use them not only to serve our human neighbors, but also to serve our sister sky, our brother mountain, our mother earth, and all our family in Creation. We pray this in the name of the Word that dwells among us. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

During this time, you are invited to take communion in your home or to be in a time of prayer.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

The God of all creation:
Of flowers and trees,
of butterflies and bees,
of squirrels and mountain lions,
bless you, keep you, and strengthen you
for the work of loving all Creation.
In the name of the + Triune God.

Amen

SENDING SONG *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (ELW 836)

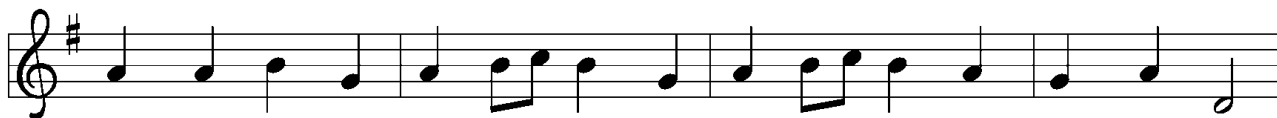
Please mute yourselves and sing verse 1 as Audrey plays



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for Creation.
Thanks be to God and we will.

ANNOUNCEMENTS