

The Church Responds

***The Affirmation of Faith - Apostles' Creed (In Unison)**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People and 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.

A Minute for Stewardship

The Church Goes Forth to Serve

The Closing Hymn #285 "God, You Spin the Whirling Planets" (Presby Hymnal)

God, You spin the whirling planets, Fill the seas and spread the plain,
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, Call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
We, created in Your image, Would a true reflection be
Of your justice, grace, and mercy And the truth that makes us free.

You have called us to be faithful In our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship Joined in one community.
When we blur Your gracious image, Focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as Your people, We move onward toward Your goal.

God, your word is still creating, Calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas Where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion. Polish us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in Your image, We'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

***The Benediction**

***The Postlude ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

April 25, 2021

Earth Sunday

10:30 AM

The Church in Preparation

The Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

The Introit and Time of Centering #370 "This Is My Father's World"

The Call to Worship

Leader: Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
People: Praise the Lord from the earth,
Leader: Mountains and all hills,
People: Fruit trees and all cedars!
Leader: Wild animals and all cattle,
People: Creeping things and flying birds!
Leader: Kings of the earth and all peoples,
People: Men and women alike,
Leader: Old and young together!
People: Let all creation praise the Lord!

(Portions of Psalm 148)

The Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Loving God, we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the bright sun, for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills and the never-resting winds, for trees and the grass underfoot. We thank you for the songs of birds, the splendor of the summer fields, the taste of autumn fruits, the glistening snow, the soft breath of the spring. Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty; and save our souls from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thorn bush is aflame with your glory, O God our creator, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

Walter Rauschenbusch (1861 – 1918), adapted

The Opening Hymn #32 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" (Glory to God)

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

The Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Creator God, you have given life to a world of amazing diversity, complexity, abundance, and beauty. The earth is yours and all that is in it. But we have claimed it for our own. We have plundered its bounty; we have squandered its resources for our short term gain. Forgive us, Lord. Renew in us a sense of humility and reverence. Empower us to be responsible stewards of your creation. Help us to care gently and justly for your earth, through the grace of Christ. Amen

A Time of Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

Musical Response

“Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Church in Proclamation

The Scripture Reading

Portions of Genesis 1
Portions of Psalm 104
Leader: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God

Special Music

“Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies”
Vocalist: Deanna Golden
Pianist: Melinda Ripper

The Micro Message

Musical Response #34 “Bless the Lord, My Soul and Being!” *(Glory to God)*

Bless the Lord, my soul and being! Lord my God, you have such might.
Cloaked with honor, grand and glorious, you are clothed with purest light.
Stretching out the heavens like tent cloth, you are chambered on the deep.
Riding on the wings of windstorm, flame and fire your bidding keep.

Lord, how great are all your workings; wisdom marks them through and through.
All the earth is your possession; great and small belong to you.
Food you give in each due season; at your hand come all good things.
By your Spirit you create us; Lord, your breath renewal brings.

May your glory reign forever. Lord, rejoice in all you make!
As you look on your creation, mountains, smoke, foundations shake.
May these words and thoughts be pleasing, for in you my joy is found.
Bless the Lord, my soul and being! With this song let praise abound.

The Sermon

Rev. Merry Meloy

The Hymn #713

“Touch the Earth Lightly”

(Glory to God)

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.

We who endanger, 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!

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.

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.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 1

¹ In the beginning when God created^[a] the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^[b] swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humankind^[c] in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,^[d] and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humankind^[e] in his image, in the image of God he created them;^[f] male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Portions of Psalm 104

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,

² wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

³ you set the beams of your^[a] chambers on the waters,

you make the clouds your^[b] chariot,

you ride on the wings of the wind,

⁴ you make the winds your^[c] messengers,

fire and flame your^[d] ministers.

⁵ You set the earth on its foundations,

so that it shall never be shaken.

⁶ You cover it with the deep as with a garment;

the waters stood above the mountains.

⁷ At your rebuke they flee;

at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

⁸ They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys
to the place that you appointed for them.
⁹ You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.
¹⁰ You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills,
¹¹ giving drink to every wild animal;
the wild asses quench their thirst.
¹² By the streams^[a] the birds of the air have their habitation;
they sing among the branches.
¹³ From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,^[b]
to bring forth food from the earth,
¹⁵ and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
¹⁷ In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees.
¹⁸ The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the coney.
¹⁹ You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting. . .
²⁴ O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures . . .
³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works—
³² who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.
³³ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.



The Flowers today are given by the Eamighs in honor of Mara's birthday on April 30.



Happy Birthday

April 25 Kevin Moon
April 27 Ben Grossman
May 1 Bud Weckerly



Flower Calendar for 2021

Would you like to donate the chancel flowers for one or more worship services?

The Flower Calendar for 2021 is in the Narthex.

Please sign up for a Sunday or two. Don't forget to tell us if the flowers are in honor or in memory of someone, or if they are to commemorate an important date. The flowers you donate are yours to take home after the worship service, or you may leave them and a Deacon will take them to one of our homebound members. The cost is \$40. Thank you!

