

Morning Worship
April 26, 2009
Third Sunday of Easter

Coming Together in Christ

10:55 AM MEDITATION (Please pause in quiet preparation for worship.)

11:00 AM CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* arr. Alec Wyton

INTROIT *Thank you, God*

Thank you, God, for making planet earth A home for us and ages yet unborn.
Help us to share, consider, save, and store. Come and renew the face of the earth.

Entering God's Presence

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 9: 9, 10

Leader: The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

People: And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.

* HYMN OF PRAISE #473 *For the Beauty of the Earth* "Dix"

THE PRAYER OF APPROACH

SILENCE

AMEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (together)

Merciful and loving God, your love for us is unconditional, yet our love for you, for others and for ourselves is often marred. We allow prejudice and pride to blind us; our brokenness remains unhealed; we cling to old stories and hurts which impede the work of reconciliation. Forgive us, we pray, for failing to trust you, for playing it safe instead of following the daring call of your Spirit, for withholding forgiveness and grace from ourselves and others. Let your love renew us yet again. Let the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead rekindle creative life within us and restore right relations among us. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON (Congregation & Choir) "St. Margaret"

**Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray,
For blight of nature's wondrous art;
That we your Providence betray
Would we confess with shameful heart, confess with shameful heart.**

—Kyrie words by Donald H. Brown
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* THE RESPONSE IN PRAISE

#455, v. 6, The Hymnal

**All creatures, your Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness.
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Summer Lunch Box Program

Hearing God’s Word

ANTHEM

The Earth Is Thine in Beauty, Lord

David N. Johnson
The Children’s Choir

The earth is thine in beauty, Lord, and we who therein dwell;
Then may we strive with one accord, to guard and keep it well.
May we not take into our hands that which belongs to thee;
Nor reckon soil or sea or sands as ours alone to be.
May we who tend thy vineyard here esteem it as a trust;
And give it back to thee still fair, for give it back we must.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

—“The Earth Is Thine in Beauty, Lord” words by Carrie Hitt Hardcastle
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* HYMN OF PREPARATION

O God, Without Whose Favor

“Aurelia”

**O God, without whose favor our toil builds nothing worth,
Grant us a heart of wisdom in use of Thy good earth.
Thy will makes all creation a parable profound,
And when we grasp its meaning we stand on holy ground.**

**Rich with the wealth of ages but poor in gratitude,
Too soon we cease from seeking Thy glory and man’s good.
We fail Thee as Thy stewards when we, in haste for gain,
Deface the stately mountain and scar the fertile plain.**

**Teach us to work together within Thy holy sight
And build a nobler country with cities free from blight,
Where ‘neath unsullied heavens all men from fear are free,
And one harmonious people lift up their hearts to Thee.**

**In vision of the future write hope and peril plain
That to our children’s children this fair land may remain.
O Thou, without whose favor our toil builds nothing worth,
Grant us new will and wisdom in use of Thy good earth.**

—“O God, Without Whose Favor” words by Henry Lyle Lambdin
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ANTHEM

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
 Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
 Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
 Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
 Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
 Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
 Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you,
 Deep peace of Christ to you.

THE SERMON

"Jesus—Before and After Easter"

Rev. John Dillon

Our Response to God's Love

* THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judges their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over and death for all.

—Section 9.08, *The Confession of 1967*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL AMEN

Seven-Fold Amen

John Rutter

WORSHIPPING THE LORD THROUGH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY SOLO

I Got Me Flowers

Ralph Vaughan Williams

I got me flowers to strew thy way;
 I got me boughs off many a tree:
 But thou wast up by break of day,
 And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.
 The sun arising in the East,
 Though he give light, and the East perfume;
 If they should offer to contest with thy arising, they presume. Can there be any day but this,
 though many suns to shine endeavour?
 We count three hundred, but we miss: There is but one, and that one ever.

* THE DOXOLOGY

#592, *The Hymnal*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

* THE HYMN OF PARTING *Mountain Brook with Rushing Waters* “Hyfrydol”

**Mountain brook with rushing waters, eagle perched in lofty tree,
Flow’ring hillside in the springtime, white-tailed deer, alert and free!
Beauty, beauty all around us, Jubilate! Sing for joy!
Help us, God, preserve earth’s splendor for tomorrow’s world to see.**

**Pure the water freshly flowing toward its ocean-destiny,
Clean the air, of God’s creation, rich the soil, the mine, the sea!
“Earth is good!” God’s word proclaimed it Jubilate! Sing for joy!
Save us, God, from wasteful living, from pollution’s tragedy.**

**Waving field of wheat and barley giant apples – juicy red,
Cattle grazing in the pasture; By God’s bounty man is fed!
Well-supplied the world around us, Jubilate! Sing for joy!
May no greed or warring madness scorch the earth or rob man’s bread.**

**Keep us faithful in the struggle to conserve earth’s threatened store:
As we fight to save the forest, clean the stream, protect the shore.
God and man as partners working, Jubilate! Sing for joy!
Partners working till as stewards we can say “earth’s good! “once more.**

—“Mountain Brook With Rushing Waters” words by William Watkins Reid, Jr.
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* SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(Please greet one another in the peace of Christ.)

* SUNG BENEDICTION

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Dennis

(Please join hands as we sing the Benediction)

**Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.**

Going Forth in God’s Love

* THE POSTLUDE

Royal Oak

* Those who wish to do so are invited to stand

Statement of Purpose

Our Church exists to worship God and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Spirit, we shall serve God's Kingdom by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

Statement of Vision

We embrace open and progressive theology. Through education, training, worship and Session leadership we will realize our vision both individually and in community. We will be open to new ideas and programs while staying true to our beliefs and traditions. We will commit our personal and corporate resources to embody our Statement of Purpose. We will live our lives responsibly with honesty and integrity.

About the Affirmation of Faith

The PC (USA) Book of Confessions is a collection of Confessions from the church in many ages and many different situations. Therefore, its expressions of faith cover a multitude of theological opinions, many of which are obviously influenced by who participated in their preparation and the times and customs of their era. While not necessarily agreeing with every statement precisely, our Ministers, Elders, and Deacons swear to be guided by its principles and truths. We select a passage from one of these Confessions each month to experience and explore the breadth and depth of our heritage.

Continuing our exploration of the Confessions, in April we will be using an extract from the Confession of 1967. [The Book of Confessions Study Edition](#) prefaces "The Confession of 1967" with the following explanation:

"The church confesses its faith when it bears a present witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ. In every age, the church has expressed its witness in words and deeds as the need of the time required. Confessions and declarations are subordinate standards... No one type of confession is exclusively valid, no one statement is irreformable. Obedience to Jesus Christ alone identifies the one universal church and supplies the continuity of its tradition..."

"The purpose of the Confession of 1967 is to call the church to that unity in confession and mission which is required of disciples today. This Confession is not a "system of doctrine", nor does it include all the traditional topics of theology. For example, the Trinity and the Person of Christ are not redefined, but are recognized and reaffirmed as forming the basis and determining the structure of the Christian faith."

Music Notes

The music for this morning reflects the Earth Day theme of our worship service and Earth Day this past Wednesday, April 22. After publicizing a new hymn search in honor of the environment with the theme being “cooperation in the preservation of God’s creation,” The Hymn Society of America received more than 500 texts. Sixteen new hymns which can be set to familiar existing hymn tunes were selected. Our middle and final hymn this morning are two of the sixteen. Join along in singing heartily as you recognize these hymn tune friends in new poetry! The text for the Children’s Choir anthem is also one of the Sixteen - a beautiful poem on earth stewardship.

John Milford Rutter (1945-) is an English composer, choral conductor, editor arranged and record producer. His compositions are chiefly choral, and include many Christmas carols, anthems, and extended works such as Magnificat. In 2002 his setting of Psalm 150, commissioned for the Queen's Golden Jubilee, was performed at the thanksgiving service in St Paul’s Cathedral, London. Rutter's music is eclectic, showing the influences of the French and English choral traditions of the early 20th century, as well as of light music and American classic songwriting. Despite composing and conducting much religious music, Rutter told the US television program 60 Minutes in 2003 that he was not particularly a religious man, but he is inspired by the spirituality of sacred verses and prayers. His music is very popular, particularly in the USA (NBC’s Today Show called him "the world's greatest living composer and conductor of choral music"); There is great appreciation for his work in many parts of the UK, as illustrated by the following quotation from a review in the London Evening Standard: "For the infectiousness of his melodic invention and consummate craftsmanship, Rutter has few peers." In terms of performances he is probably the most successful choral composer of his generation. For example, his *Shepherd's Pipe Carol*, written while he was still at school, is reputed to have sold well over one million copies in sheet music alone. “A Gaelic Blessing” is an original Rutter melody using an adapted text of an old Gaelic rune, blessing the Earth.

“I Got Me Flowers” is the second piece in the song cycle, “Five Mystical Songs.” Interestingly, this song is actually the second half of the poem by George Herbert (1593-1633) “Easter,” the first piece in the cycle. In the fourth stanza, the part that has become the second song, “I Got Me Flowers,” Herbert goes on to tell God that he has flowers and tree boughs, but God has brought other “sweets” to the day in form of nature’s beauty. The sense (but not the poetic power) of the next stanza is probably best understood by this paraphrase: Those persons who offer to contest or compare the sun’s rising with the Son’s rising (“thy arising”) are being presumptuous, even though the actual sun gives light and perfumes the East. In the last stanza, the poet asks rhetorically, is there really any other day besides Easter? Is there really any other day, even though many other (ordinary) suns endeavor to shine? We can count as many as three hundred suns, but we would miss the fact that there really is just one “Son” and that one is forever (the pun on “sun” and “Son” is common in 17th-century poetry.)

What's Happening This Week:



SUNDAY, APRIL (26)

9:00 AM	Children's Choir Rehearsal
9:30 AM	Sunday School for All Ages Confirmation Class Meets in Pastor's Office
10:15 AM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM	Coffee Hour in the Kitchen
11:00 AM	Worship Service, 3 rd Sunday of Easter Moment for Mission, Children's Choir Singing On the Air WCBC
4:30 PM	GAFOSAC Youth Meeting
5:00 PM	Pastor's Book Study

MONDAY, APRIL (27)

9:00 AM	Church Office Open
9:00 AM	Learning Tree Nursery School
10:00 AM	Book Study in Pastor's Office

TUESDAY, APRIL (28)

9:00 AM	Church Office Open
9:00 AM	Learning Tree Nursery School

WEDNESDAY, APRIL (29)

9:00 AM	Church Office Open
9:00 AM	Learning Tree Nursery School
6:15 PM	JoyBells Rehearsal
7:30 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, APRIL (30)

9:00 AM	Church Office Open
9:00 AM	Learning Tree Nursery School

FRIDAY, MAY (1)

9:00 AM	Church Office Open
9:00 AM	Learning Tree Nursery School

SUNDAY, MAY (3)

9:00 AM	Children's Choir Rehearsal
9:30 AM	Sunday School for All Ages Confirmation Class Meets in Pastor's Office
10:15 AM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM	Coffee Hour in the Kitchen
11:00 AM	Worship Service, 4 th Sunday of Easter, Communion Cents-Ability Offering Collected, On the Air WCBC
4:00 PM	Hand Bell Concert in Sanctuary
5:00 PM	Pastor's Book Study
7:00 PM	"Run Kid Run" Concert at FSU