Westminster Presbyterian Church



April 21, 2024 Earth Day Sunday

PRELUDE "Morning Prayer" by Joseph P Martin

WELCOME

PREPARATION MUSIC "Meditation on a Folksong" by Joseph P Martin

INTROIT "Awesome God" #23 (Lift Up Your Hearts)

Our God is an awesome God, he reigns from heaven above with wisdom, pow'r and love. Our God is an awesome God. (repeat)
Our God is an awesome God!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 148:1-5a (CEV, adapted)

Shout praises to God!

Shout God's praises in the highest heavens.

All of you angels, and all who serve God above, come and offer praise.

Sun and moon, and all of you bright stars, come and offer praise.

Highest heavens, and the water above the heavens, come and offer praise.

Let all things praise the name of the Lord.

*HYMN "Morning Has Broken" #469 (<u>Hymnal</u>)

Morning has broken like the first morning.
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing, fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, Like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning Born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's re-creation of the new day!

PRAYER

(adapted from a prayer by Jill Duffield, *The Presbyterian Outlook*)

The earth, and all that is within it, is yours, Lord God.

Every creature great and small, you made and cherish them all.

Creator God, too often we have exploited rather than cherished your good earth. We have been selfish, shortsighted, ungrateful, and without regard for the air and sea, the dirt beneath our feet and the living beings dependent upon a healthy world.

Gracious God renew our sense of wonder. Give us eyes to see the colors and light that beckon us to care for sky and land. Grant us ears to hear the birds' songs and the crickets' chirps as they call us to be good stewards of the trees and soil they call home. Awaken us to your glory made known in endless variety life in of every corner of the globe. Teach us to love the earth as you do. Give us wisdom in our choices. May the beauty of your creation compel us to act in ways that preserve, protect and sustain the life of our planet, so that all things may indeed praise your name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 8

ANTHEM

"Prayer of Thanksgiving"

by Jane Foster Knox and Mark Wilson

FAITH INTENTIONS MOMENT

Ann Cirvencic

*please stand if able

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 148:5-14 (CEV)

SERMON

"Praise Party"

Pastor Janet

"All Creatures of our God and King" verses 1-4 #455 (Hymnal) HYMN All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou burning sun with gold beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav'n along, O sing ye! Alleluia! Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, Ye lights of evening, find a voice! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou flowing water pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear, Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou fire so masterful and bright, That givest us both warmth and light, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou fertile earth that day by day unfoldest blessings on your way, O sing ye! Alleluia! The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, Let them God's glory also show! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU

SONG "God Is Holding Your Life"

(Psalm 121)

Lift up your eyes, behold the hills. From where will help and rescue come? We call on One who made the earth, who blessed the stars, the moon and sun.

Refrain: God is holding your life, God is holding your life, God is holding your life, we believe. (repeat)

Turn down your gaze upon the earth. Where is the One who never sleeps? We call on One who guards you now: your spirit safe in holy keep. Refrain

Venturing out or coming home, 'neath heat of day or cool of night, We call on One who hears your voice and comes to heal and keep your life.

Refrain

PRAYER

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

*HYMN "God of the Sparrow"

#272 (*Hymnal*)

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars -How does the creature say Awe? How does the creature say Praise? God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast -How does the creature cry Woe? How does the creature cry Save?

God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave -How does the creature say Grace? How does the creature say Thanks? God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal — How does the Creature say Care? How does the creature say Life?

God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook — How does the creature say Love? How does the creature say Peace? God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart — How do your children say Joy? How do your children say Home?

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

"The Trees of the Field"

#2279 (Sing the Faith)

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
There'll be shouts of joy,
And all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
The trees of the field will clap their hands,
The trees of the field will clap their hands,
While you go out with joy.

POSTLUDE

"A Rustic Celebration"

Joseph P. Martin