

On Earth Day 2021 Let Us Thank God for Creation

"Now this is what we believe. The Mother of us all is Earth. The Father is the sun. The Grandfather is the Creator who bathed us with the creator's mind and gave life to all things. The brother is the beasts and trees. The sister is that with wings. We are the children of Earth and do it no harm in any way. Nor do we offend the sun by not greeting it at dawn. We praise our Grandfather for creation. We share the same breath together – the beasts, the trees, the birds, the human." (Tiwa speaking Pueblo Peoples)

Parts of the service in **bold** are for everyone to speak in unison.

Gathering Music

Dr. Jonathan Morris

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sheri Fry

Call to Worship

Liturgist Noel Matthews

One: The world belongs to God,
All: The Earth and all its people.
One: How good it is, how wonderful,
All: To live together in unity.
One: To see the life that teems around us,
All: To give thanks for the gift we have received;
One: To notice the beauty and promise of spring,
All: To breathe deeply of the season;
One: To accept the gift of love, and to love in return:
All: This is to worship God. Let us join our voices together.



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Noel Matthews

We give thanks for the light of hope – unrelenting and inexplicable.
We give thanks for the light of peace – strong and unafraid.
We give thanks for the light of joy – persistent and unpredictable.
We give thanks for the light of love – hot and holy.
Let the light we kindle go before us, strong in hope, wide in good will, inviting the day to come.
Amen.

Hymn 401

Gather Us In (Here in this Place)

(next page)

Prayer for Illumination

O risen Christ, open us to the power of your resurrection as we hear it proclaimed anew this day, that we too might rise to new life in you. Amen.

Here in This Place

Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

Affirmation of Faith

Noel Matthews

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things. We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin. We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

Anthem

Lead Me, Guide Me

Prayer and 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.

Offering Ourselves and our Gifts

Hymn 231

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

(next page)

Charge and Benediction

One: This we know, the earth does not belong to us.

All: We belong to the Earth.

One: This we know, all things are connected.

All: Like the blood that unites one family.

One: This we know, we did not weave the web of life.

All: We are merely a strand in it.

One: This we know, whatever we do to the web,

All: We do to ourselves.

One: Let us give thanks for the gift of creation,

All: Let us give thanks that all things hold together in Christ.

Surely the Presence

Surely the presence of the Lord
is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power and
His grace.

I can feel the brush of angels'
wings. I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of the Lord
is in this place.

Congregational Benediction

Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place

by Lanny Wolfe

Good Shepherd Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Sheri Fry

Office Admin: Teddie McConnell

Choir Director: Sara Tyburczy

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers 231



1 Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris-en where hope died,
 2 Christ has ris-en for the peo - ple whom he died to love and save;
 3 Christ has ris-en and for ev - er lives to chal-lenge and to change



as he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de - nied.
 Christ has ris-en for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave.
 all whose lives are messed or man-gled, all who find re - li - gion strange.



Let the moon em-brace the bless-ing; let the sun sus-tain the cheer;
 Christ has ris - en for dis - ci - ples hud-dled in an up - stairs room.
 Christ is ris - en, Christ is pres - ent mak - ing us what he has been:



let the world con-firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris-en, God is here!
 He whose word in-spired cre-a-tion can't be si-lenced by the tomb.
 ev - i - dence of trans-for-ma-tion in which God is known and seen.





Sermon Musings

Luke 24:36-48

We are in the resurrection era. Christ died. Christ rose. And God is reconciling with all...Jews and Gentiles...in order to bring the whole world into right relationship. In our Gospel for this third Sunday of Easter, Luke describes one of Jesus's post-resurrection appearances to his disciples. They're sitting around talking — no doubt about Jesus's death and the bizarre rumors circulating about his missing body — when he appears in their midst out of seemingly nowhere. They respond with terror, and to calm their fears, Jesus offers his friends the tactile testimony of his body: "Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."



Luke doesn't tell us whether the disciples take Jesus up on his offer. But when hands and feet prove inadequate to convince the disciples of Jesus's physical presence, he offers up his tongue, teeth, esophagus, stomach, and intestines, too: "Have you anything to eat?" The disciple's hand him a piece of broiled fish, and he takes and eats it in their presence. A simple act, but an act that shifts the story.

As Jesus chews and swallows, something becomes possible that was impossible before. The disciples lose enough of their fear to draw close and actually listen to what he's saying, and their receptivity allows Jesus to "open their minds to understand." By the end of the encounter, they are no longer frightened human beings; they are "witnesses of these things," emboldened for life and ministry. Simply by expressing physical hunger and accepting bodily nourishment, Jesus turns trauma into communion.

For me, this embodied Jesus of Easter *is* the Jesus I recognize — and that recognition is both precious and essential. The Jesus of Easter is the Jesus of the Incarnation. I need a Savior with a body like mine — a body that adores, worships, and celebrates, but also a body that fails, ages, aches, breaks, and dies. A body that is vulnerable to forces beyond my ability to mitigate or control. A body that is, for the most part, defenseless against injury, violence, illness, injustice, and cruelty. A body that might die — as Jesus himself died — too soon, out of season, away from loved ones, in random, inexplicable, cruelly traumatic circumstances too frightening to contemplate. AND I need a God who resurrects bodies. A God who honors and declares with absolute authority and credibility that our endings here and now are not The End.

What does the word church mean to you?



- 1) A building used for public Christian worship
- 2) House of God
- 3) OR...

A Reflection by Joyce Matthews

“This question came up recently, and it made me start thinking. Church has always been part of my life although sometimes an afterthought. I think I’ve finally gotten more intentional about it.

“The past year has been a testing time for many of us. There were limits on what we could do and where we could go. Church has been available for us, but it has been different. Staying home and listening to a worship service sometimes seems to lack the same commitments as physically going to church and sharing worship and fellowship time with others.

“For me, church is an opportunity to serve and a place to worship. I’m lucky because I had somewhere to go and something to do during the year of COVID. Finances needed to be cared for, and it gave me my opportunity to serve. Keeping the finances in order also allowed me to assist with keeping our place to worship open. Church is family and a place to share the worship of God. It’s a vital part of my life and makes me feel needed. It is said that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. In the same way church is the most important part of my week.”

COVID MODERNA VACCINE CLINIC @ GOOD SHEPHERD

April 19th 10am -2 pm

We are once again and for the last time partnering with the Department of Public Health & Environment to host a vaccine clinic on Monday, April 19th. **Ages 18 +** are able to receive the vaccination.

Contact Rev. Sheri Fry at revmo25@gmail.com for the registration link.

If you would like to donate individually wrapped snacks for the vaccinators & the people being vaccinated and/or offer your welcoming presence on Monday it will be greatly appreciated!

And if you would like to offer your presence welcoming people to our church it too would be greatly appreciated!



DIAPERS, WIPES AND FEMININE HYGEINE PRODUCTS DRIVE

MAY 9 - JUNE 20, 2021 ~ MOTHER'S DAY TO FATHER'S DAY



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church wants families in the area to have an important necessity...DIAPERS and other personal products,

On Sunday, May 9 – Mother's Day - the church will host a Mother's Day to Father's Day diaper drive.

Let's work together to collect diapers for families in need that will be distributed through the **Good Shepherd Food Bank**. Nationally, 1 in 3 families with children under age 3 struggle to buy diapers.

The Good Shepherd Food Bank connects with many families every month and often do not have enough diapers to help families. Our Food Bank volunteers observe that diapers help more than just the babies who wear them.

“There are also consequences for parents and caregivers. Consequences like increased stress and depression, consequences like missing work or school because parents aren't able to bring children to daycare when they run out of diapers, and so for us we see providing diapers to the most vulnerable members of our community as something that not just impacts the health and well-being of infants but can have a positive impact on families as a whole.”

You can drop diapers, wipes and hygiene products off at Good Shepherd in Fellowship Hall or in the Narthex on Sundays. Thank you in advance for your donations!

Peace, Sheri

Rev. Sheri Fry

Transitional Pastor

ZIMBABWE MISSION PARTNERSHIP

We now have 8 people in the process of registering to ride for TEAM GOOD SHEPHERD on June 6th at the Douglas County Fair Grounds! They are Stephen Chappell, Pastor Sheri and her family (5 people), Teddie McConnell and David



Wolters. They will be raising much-needed support for the Heather Chimhoga Care Center in Zimbabwe. Our partners in Zimbabwe tell us that the community vegetable gardens have had a very successful year due to abundant rainfall. The poultry project is now self-supporting and providing protein for the children's meals. The moringa project is also a growing source of nutrition, as well as a new product to market. Part of the Clinic is in use, although it is not completely finished nor had an "official grand opening." That should take place sometime in the next several months.

COVID-19 remains an extreme challenge in Zimbabwe, and schools are currently closed. Staff members, families and community caregivers provide food delivery, medical care and educational to help to the children as much as possible. Our continued financial support is critical through fund-raisers and congregational pledges from the churches in the ZMP. Please consider making a generous donation to support 1 or more bike riders, either on-line (zimpartnership.org) or through Good Shepherd by writing on your check that it is for ZMP and the name(s) of the riders you wish to support. Thank you in advance for your on-going support of and dedication to this important mission.



We invite you to give to the **PCUSA One Great Hour of Sharing** – this offering is the single largest way that Presbyterians unite to work for a better world. This offering helps those suffering and vulnerable through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People. We hope you can give generously...as we each do a little...it adds up to A Lot! Thank you for your generosity!

Joys and Concerns

Peewee Holland has moved and changed his phone number. He is now at 1506 Sunset Place, Loveland, CO 80537, 303-408-0665. Please pray for Art and his family, grieving the loss of Jan; for the Bennett family who are grieving the loss of Diana's parents; for Wava V. is home now and on hospice care; the family of Barb W., who is now living with her daughter due to severe Alzheimer's disease; for the family of Burton K., who is in memory care and hospice care; for Pee Wee his family; Norm R.'s family, for Bill and Gayle, H.; for Jim S. and Michelle W; for communities affected by COVID-19 or by human rights violations here in the United States and throughout the world; for our church, that it may thrive as it brings the good news to our area.

Dear Friends of Burton, Thank you for your recent thoughtful cards and letters to Burton. He listens intently and absorbs your love. Since we have all had our vaccines we can visit Dad more frequently. He has recently "graduated" from hospice care! Medicare requires progressive health decline in order to continue hospice care, but B. actually improved a bit! Since he is now in a wheelchair most of the time, he is not likely to fall and require emergency room visits. Possibly better than hospice, Dad, who turns 95 on June 12, has a new admirer! Shirley is often at his side, holding his hand! Robo-kitty is now lonely! - Burton's son