



"A Community Of Many Faithing Communities Where All Belong!"

Living Waters Contemplative Life Center | Divine Intervention Ministry to the Homeless  
Tippecanoe just.good.food Garden | Food Justice Site PCUSA  
Arts and Science Literacy Camps for Children

# Welcome To Worship

April 23, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Earth Day



*Welcome to this time of being with God and each other.*

*"Relentless Resurrection" Rev. Trish Eckert*

✧ **Prelude** Zo Trembley

✧ **Welcome and community news**

Our Congregational Meeting takes place immediately after worship – please remain with us for this brief and important gathering.

Interested in volunteering to support our ministries? Let Pastor Trish know – we’re still seeking folks to serve with Hungry Hearts on Saturday mornings, and we’re preparing to launch our growing season in the Tippe gardens!

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

*Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!*  
*Surely God is in this place,*  
*Holy Ground!*

✧ **A Poem as we Center Ourselves in this Moment**



✧ **Becoming Present to God and Each Other - Our Check-in**

~ The Joy of Passing the Peace ~

## ✧Kid's Time

### ✧Gathering as God's People: Intentional Reflection on Earth Day

In a time of climate crisis, disasters of Biblical scale are impacting our communities and the places we love. Today, just like in the Bible, floods and famines show us a deep truth about human life: that our lives are intimately dependent on the land. In our sacred scriptures, we read the stories of creatures made from the soil, whose lives are sustained—physically and spiritually—by the fruits of the land. In these stories, we see how, in the midst of disaster, the land can be fertile ground to sustain ourselves and to take prophetic action for justice.

Throughout the stories of the Bible, we read about agricultural acts and food systems. Like our food system stories today, these Biblical accounts are ones of destruction and recreation. They are stories of devastation and rebirth. They are stories of depletion and regeneration. They are stories of death and resurrection. The Biblical stories of the relationship between humans and the land, mediated by the food we eat, are central to our Christian theology.

In today's Bible Wisdom teaching from the Gospel of Luke, this human-land-food relationship is explored in the way a simple meal can reveal to us resurrection hope in the midst of death.

This year, within the PCUSA, Creation Justice Ministries is encouraging us to protect, restore, and more rightly share God's creation through the theme: "Sowing Seeds – Prophetic Action To Climate-Changed Lands. They are providing materials that educate us about the current state of climate and its impact on our food system, while answering our biblical call to seek justice for all of God's creation. We have printed off a copy of their resource, which highlights community and political action we can take, as well as outlining the new Farm Bill that is moving through legislation right now. You can view it at the back of the sanctuary.

Within the Presbytery, Tippe is a Hunger Action Congregation – we live into that through our Hungry Hearts and garden ministries, as well as coordinating dinners every night for our guests during the warming season. This week I participated in a presentation that educated us about the Farm Bill, which is renewed about every five years. The presenter told us, "If you eat food or know anyone who eats food, then this bill directly impacts every part of your meal from where and how your food is grown; how it is cleaned or processed; how much it costs; and any money you may receive to help pay for your food." I'm also emailing a link to everyone so that you are aware of what is at stake and how to get involved. There are vast systems connected to our food, which impact every aspect of our lives, our health, and the health of the planet: how food is grown, whether its treated with chemicals, how the land is prepared and harvested, packaging and transporting, preparing and distributing, what we do with food waste - every step is a consideration because it touches on issues of social justice and how we treat one another and creation.

There is so much to think about and to pray for, and there is also much that inspires hope and creative solutions.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/food-faith/farmbill/>

As we enter worship today, and as we move through the coming week, let us consider a couple of big-picture questions:

***Can we be faithful disciples without examining our plate?***

In Luke's gospel, there is a strong emphasis on the table. It is a thread along which the story progresses, and a setting where teachable moments are offered.

***What is the role of the church?*** All of God's people need access to affordable, nutritious, climate-friendly food.

It is a joy to open ourselves to consider both the practical and spiritual layers of our life together!

✧ **Gathering Hymn 14** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

✧ **Opening Ourselves to God's Grace**

*~ Earth Day Liturgy from the National Council of Churches*

*From Psalm 19*

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**ALL: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

One: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard.

**ALL: Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.**

*Litany for Creation*

One: Praise to you, O God, source of all waters. For vast oceans, flowing rivers, and gentle rains we give you thanks.

**ALL: Forgive our careless waste and polluting ways.**

One: Help us to cleanse, conserve, and share; teach us to care for the gift of water.

**ALL: Come and heal your people. Come and heal the waters.**

One: Praise to you, O God, creator of the dry land. For mighty mountains, rolling hills, and fertile prairies we give you thanks.

**ALL: Forgive our wanton greed and violent ways.**

One: Help us to sow, till, and harvest with care; teach us to live gently on the land.

**ALL: Come and heal your people. Come and heal the land.**

One: Praise to you, O God, breath of life and maker of air. For wind and wave, breath and breeze, light and life we give you thanks.

**ALL: Forgive our heedless acts and selfish ways.**

One: Help us to live justly, simply, and wisely; teach us to care for the gift of air.

**ALL: Come and heal your people. Come and heal the air.**

One: Praise to you, O God, Lord and Giver of Life. Your love sustains planet earth and by your hand all things living are fed.

**ALL: Forgive our neglect and abuse of your gifts.**

One: Help us to serve, defend, defend and restore your creation.

**ALL: Help us care for your people. Help us care for the earth.**

✧**Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

One: "Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls." (Jeremiah 6:16)

**ALL: We are standing at a crossroads. Together let us seek the good way and find rest for all of God's creation.**

One: Peace be to this community. Peace be to this land. Peace be to all people. Amen.

✧**Special Music *Ocean Mother***  
sung and played by Rosie Rain



## ✧ Prayer of Intention

### ✧ Bible Wisdom Teaching

#### **Luke 24:13-35**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.

Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."

Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

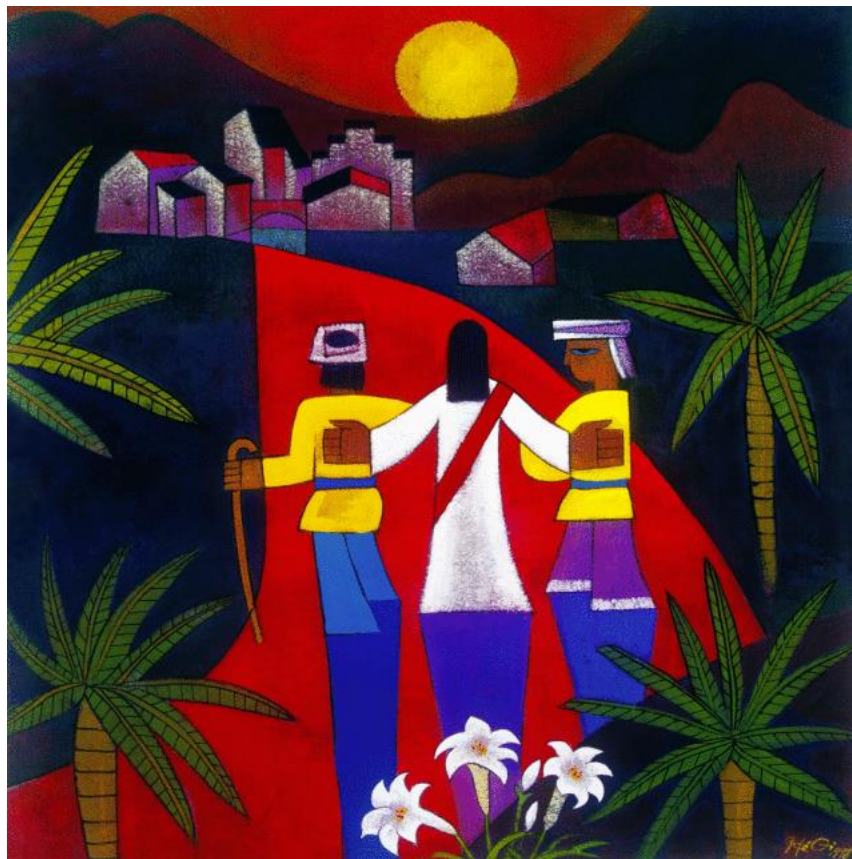
That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!"

Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

One: May we hear anew the origin stories of our faith and draw from the roots of our tradition.

**All: Thanks be to our God.**

## ✧ *Message Relentless Resurrection*



He Qi – “The Road to Emmaus”

### ✧ **Reflection Questions**

- As we travel with Christ in this season of resurrection, how will we approach our tables, our meals, and one another in a way that will open our eyes and help us to see and to know the Christ who lingers with us?
- How might we care for creation in ways that align with the inclusive and equitable approach that Jesus models for us?
- What are you beginning to see and know that reveals abundance, creativity, and possibility?

### ✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

### ✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

### ✧ **Hymn 69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky**

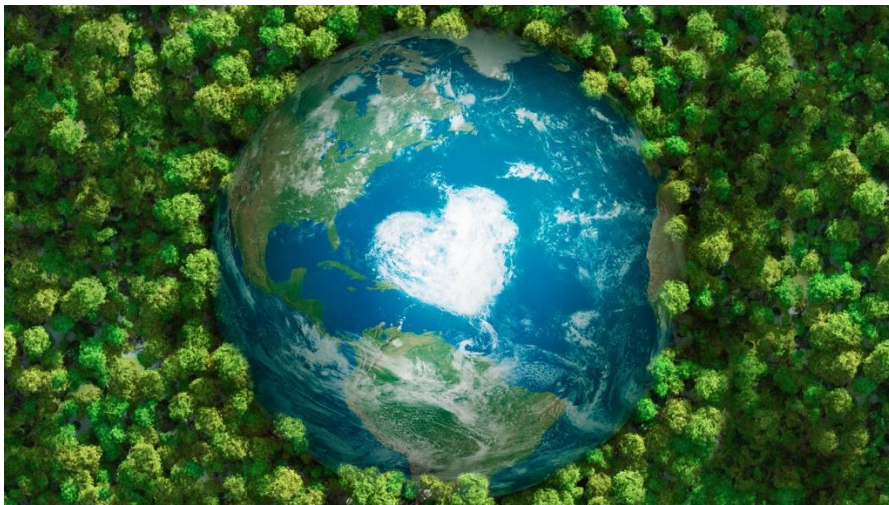
### ✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

## The Lord's Prayer

Our mother,  
which art the earth,  
Nurturing are thy ways.  
Thy web of life be woven  
Thy way be found within,  
As it is all around.

Thank you this day for our daily bread and work  
and forgive us our misuse of you,  
as we forgive others their misuse of us.  
And lead us not into exploitation,  
But deliver us  
From lording it over you,  
And over each other,  
And over all our other fellow creatures.  
For thine are the waters of life,  
The hills, valleys, and plains of home,  
The breeding, seeding, feeding ground,  
For now, and for as close to forever  
As we will ever come.  
Ah, woman!

*EARTH DANCE* based on the Lord's Prayer published in Minnesota Women's Press, December 1999 Author thought to be Karen Loveland, as member of Unity Church, Santa Rosa, CA Passed on in 2000 by Nancy Carroll





✧ **Benediction**

Go now out into the wonderful and mysterious world.  
Go and behold the beauty that is all around you.  
Let yourself be blown by the wild wind.  
Hear the birds and listen to the music of the ages.  
Know that the Holy Spirit is in you and for you. Amen.

*Now that the worship has ended, may the service truly begin.*

✧ **Our Response:**

***Holy One, now we your servants go in peace. Your Word lives on in us.***

✧ **Postlude** Zo Trembley

