**April 21, 2024 – Fourth Sunday in Easter Email/At Home Missal**

**ZOOM INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY APRIL 21ST, 2024-THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 09.30 am on April 21, 2024, can be found here:**

**Worship April 21, 2024 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here:**

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84066302102?pwd=ZEQ1V0dhRzRoMUZrcDBlMXF3STJWZz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84066302102?pwd=ZEQ1V0dhRzRoMUZrcDBlMXF3STJWZz09)

**Meeting ID: 840 6630 2102 Passcode: 541916**

**You don’t have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the “One tap mobile” option:**

**+14388097799,,84066302102#,,,,\*541916# Canada;**

**+15873281099,,84066302102#,,,,\*541916# Canada**

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 778 907 2071 Canada**

**+1 780 666 0144 Canada**

**+1 204 272 7920 Canada  
+1 438 809 7799 Canada**

**+1 587 328 1099 Canada**

**+1 647 374 4685 Canada  
+1 647 558 0588 Canada**

**Meeting ID: 840 6630 2102 Passcode: 541916**

**Find your local number:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kMO4FqjTt**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kMO4FqjTt)

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**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 21st-APRIL 28th, 2024**

**You will find the video for the service from this past Sunday at the following YouTube link:** [**https://youtu.be/mIL\_wowkUXc**](https://youtu.be/mIL_wowkUXc)

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**Announcements: Coming Events** *(save these dates)* ***bold print - events being held here at St. Peter’s***

1. Apr. 21 Recital*(see below for further details)*
2. Apr. 23 Earth Week Event*(see below for further details)*
3. Apr. 28 Taize Service*(see below for further details)*
4. May 04 Menno Singers – My God is a Rock *(see below for further details)*
5. May 05 Menno Singers – My God is a Rock *(see below for further details)*

May 05 Addison Women’s Choir – Voices in Bloom *(see below for further details)*

May 09 Trillium United Church Women Spring Luncheon *(see below for further details)*

June 21 Spirituality and Aging Seminar *(see below for further details)*

1. June 22 Taize Service*(see below for further details)*

Aug. 11-23 Ontario Mennonite Music Camp *(see below for further details)*

**The Life of St. Peter’s for the week of April 21 – April 28, 2024**

1. Monday 6:00 pm TOPS - R.F.F. *(Art Room)*
2. Tuesday 7:00 pm Scouts - R.F.F. *(Scout Room, Art Room, Fellowship Hall)*
3. **Wednesday 10:30 am Weekly Bible Study *(Art Room)***
4. **7:00 pm Praying the Catechism *(via zoom)***
5. Thursday
6. Friday
7. Saturday
8. **Sunday**   **10:00 am Worship Service** – A passage from **1 Corinthians 1:10-18** *(Factions in the church and the word of the cross)*

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**Pastoral Visit: Pastor Laura is available for visits by appointment by calling the church office, 519-653-4721. Whether you have a particular pastoral concern or would just like some one-to-one time to get to know Pastor Laura, she would love to meet with you.**

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1. **Prayer List: Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Shirley, Clara, Jeff, Aaron, MacKenzie, Rhett, Jan Ken, Lee, Maria, Deborah, Fred, Anne, Sherri, Carol, Avery.**

**……………………………………….**

1. **Weekly Bible Study** **- Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Art Room. Everyone is welcome!**

**……………………………………….**

1. **“Praying the Catechism” – A season of intentional prayer for Lent & Easter - Wednesdays at 7PM on Zoom from February 21 to May 15. Join Pastor Laura on zoom each Wednesday for prayer, conversation and mutual support as we work our way through “Praying the Catechism” this Lenten and Easter seasons.**

**……………………………………….**

1. **It's Maple Syrup Time at St. Peter's. The Maple Syrup we supply is from a local 5th generation farm, producing Maple Syrup for over 100 years. Since 2018 all of our Maple Syrup is "Certified Organic."**
2. **"It's truly the best Maple Syrup I have ever tasted." Pastor Monika 1 litre Mason Jars are $24.00.**
3. **Please contact Alex Black or St. Peter's office to order Maple Syrup.**

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GREENHORIZONS BIGYELLOWBAG - GIVE & GROW PROGRAM - This fundraiser is open to all and enables each one of us to raise funds for St. Peters.  If you don’t have a lawn or garden, not a problem, you can still help by spreading the word to your neighbours, friends and relatives.  Each time that an order is placed at Greenhorizons Sod at 855-424-4224 for a BigYellowBag of soil using the code STPETERS24, you will save $5.00, and the church will receive $10.00. Spread the word, and the soil!**

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1. We need you to help feed our neighbourhood!The freedom Centre has joined with Cambridge Community Table to offer a meal to our community twice a month on Tuesday night. We need volunteers: Food Preparation, set up, take down, meet and Greet. Every hour you can give once or twice a month. Call for information 519-591-6518 or email [rosemary@freedomcentre.ca](mailto:rosemary@freedomcentre.ca).

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1. Move with Robert(Free Exercise Class Mondays 1 – 2 pm, YMCA Certified Fitness Instructor – Wear exercise shoes/bringwater/no registration required/ arrive by 12:45 pm – Trillium United Church, Cambridge)

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1. Gregory Stroh, Judy Douglas and Bradley Moggach are in a recital at the Wellington County Museum on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 2 pm.

**……………………………………….**

1. **Earth Week Event – April 23 at 7 pm. Special Guest Speaker: Dani Lindamood, Programs Director, Wellington Water Waters. Plastics, plastics everywhere…and what you can do about it. Trillium United Church, 450 King St. E., Cambridge. Light refreshments will be provided.**

**……………………………………….**

1. **Taize Service - Sunday, April 28th, 2024 at Sterling Avenue Mennonite Church (57 Sterling Ave North) at**
2. **7 PM.**

**……………………………………….**

1. Menno Singers – My God is a Rock - Saturday, May 4 at 7:30 pm – Brandon Leis, Artistic Director, Heart Cry Ensemble, Songs to celebrate Gods faithfulness. St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Kitchener. $20 Adults, $5 Children/Students. Tickets at the door or [www.menosingers.com](http://www.menosingers.com)

**……………………………………….**

1. Menno Singers – My God is a Rock - Sunday, May 5 at 3 pm – Brandon Leis, Artistic Director, Heart Cry Ensemble, Songs to celebrate Gods faithfulness. Wallenstein Bible Chapel, Wallenstein. $20 Adults, $5 Children/Students. Tickets at the door or [www.menosingers.com](http://www.menosingers.com)

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1. Addison Women’s Choir present their annual Spring Concert – Voices in Bloom – Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 3 pm. Preston Mennonite Church, 791 Concession Rd, Cambridge ON. Special Guests: Age of Majority Singers. Advance tickets: Adults $15, at the door $20, Children under 12: FREE www.addison womenschoir.com

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1. Trillium United Church Women Spring Luncheon – Come and Enjoy Pork Tenderloin with salads, Lemon Dessert with coffee and tea. Thursday, May 9, 2024 11:20 am – 12:30 pm. Cost $20; Limited Tickets available at the church office. Proceeds to UCW Outreach. Trillium United Church, 450 King Street East Cambridge, ON 519-653-6601.

**……………………………………….**

1. Ontario Mennonite Music Camp is a place where youth in grade 6-12 develop and enrich relationships, faith, musicality, and leadership in a fun and supportive summer camp environment. Hosted at Conrad Grebel University College in Waterloo, August 11 to 23, 2024. Register by April 12 for early-bird camp fees. [uwaterloo.ca/grebel/ommc](https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/ommc)

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The Annual Spirituality and Aging Seminar will take place on Friday, June 21st in-person and virtually at Conrad Grebel University College. Rev. Dr. Mark Roberts presents “From Problems to Possibilities: Faith Communities enabling those in the third third of life to flourish.” This seminar challenges the narratives about elders in communities, churches, and society at large; exploring the role churches can play in empowering older adults. Visit [grebel.ca/spirituality](http://grebel.ca/spirituality) for registration information. Professionals, practitioners, and all interested are welcome.

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1. **Taize Service - Saturday, June 22, 2024 at Lincoln Road Chapel (145 Lincoln Road, Waterloo) at 7 PM.**

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**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

**Organist & Director of Music: Bradley Moggach**

**Assisting Minister: Barb Burden**

**Reader: Helga Morrison**

**Welcome remarks**

**Call to Worship:**

P: Whether we live near mountains or prairies or forests—  
***C: We are one in Christ.***

P: Whether our winters are balmy or our summers are cool—  
***C: We are one in Christ.***

P: Whether we live near the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean or somewhere in the middle—  
***C: We are one in Christ.***

P: Whether we live in urban dwellings, nestled in the suburbs, or surrounded by a rural landscape—  
***C: We are one in Christ.***

P: In a spirit of unity, caring for each other and the whole of creation—  
***C: We are one in Christ.***

—*Adapted from the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, “*[*Be the Church: Protect the Environment*](https://michelletorigian.com/category/be-the-church/)*” worship service.* © 2016 Rev. Michelle L. Torigian. Free to use with attribution.

**Gathering Hymn: ACS # 1064 ‘Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom’**

1 Earth is full of wit and wisdom,

sounding God's delighted laugh,

from the tiny roly-poly

to the treetop-tall giraffe.

All creation sings in wonder;

even rocks and trees rejoice

as they join the ringing chorus:

echoes of our Maker's voice.

2 Earth is full of wit and wisdom,

woven into harmony.

Ev'ry creature has a purpose,

ev'ry flow'r and bumblebee.

Spider, human, redwood, gecko,

monkey, chicken, mouse, and snake

live within a single fabric:

cloth that only God could make.

3 Earth is full of wit and wisdom:

penguin, platypus, and snail,

cactus, sea slug, oak, and algae,

from the microbe to the whale.

In this great and strange creation,

with a breath God gives us birth:

born of soil to live as stewards,

called to love and serve the earth.

*(Title: Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom; Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979 ; Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music:* *W. Moore, Columbian Harmony, 1825: arr. Hymnal version; Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress; All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Land Acknowledgement:**

A: As we gather this morning in praise of you, we pause to give thanks for the land over which your Spirit broods and breathes new life. We give thanks for our forbears and neighbours, the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Neutral peoples who have inhabited the land for generations. In this season of resurrection, raise us up to live in renewed relationship with the land and our indigenous neighbours. Help us to walk with humility and care.

**Greeting:**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

***C: And also with you.***

**Theme Time**

**Prayer of the Day:**

P: As we gather, we are thankful for your Creation:  
 for light and darkness;  
 for air, wind, and sky;  
 for earth and sea;  
 for seeds, harvests, and plant life;  
 for sunlight, moonlight, and starlight;  
 for every living creature, swarming, flying, creeping, and grazing;  
 for our lives.  
In our actions, meditations, and prayers,  
may we honour and celebrate your very good Creation,  
as we seek wisdom on how to share our gratitude and love in good and healing ways.  
Amen.

*—Written by Alydia Smith. From Alydia Smith, ed., Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis (Toronto: United Church Publishing House, 2023), p. 127. Free to use with attribution.*

**Scripture Song: ELW # 510 ‘Word of God, Come Down on Earth’ *(verse 1)***

1 Word of God, come down on earth,

living rain from heav'n descending;

touch our hearts and bring to birth

faith and hope and love unending.

Word almighty, we revere you;

Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

*(Title: Word of God, Come Down on Earth; Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919; © James Quinn, SJ, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent. www.selahpub.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Reader: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

*May we be equipped by these words to walk in love for God, ourselves, our neighbours, all people, and all God’s creation.*

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy.

To the Thessalonians’ church that is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace to all of you.

We always thank God for all of you when we mention you constantly in our prayers. This is because we remember your work that comes from faith, your effort that comes from love, and your perseverance that comes from hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father. Brothers and sisters, you are loved by God, and we know that he has chosen you. We know this because our good news didn’t come to you just in speech but also with power and the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know as well as we do what kind of people we were when we were with you, which was for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord when you accepted the message that came from the Holy Spirit with joy in spite of great suffering. As a result you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The message about the Lord rang out from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place. The news about your faithfulness to God has spread so that we don’t even need to mention it. People tell us about what sort of welcome we had from you and how you turned to God from idols. As a result, you are serving the living and true God, and you are waiting for his Son from heaven. His Son is Jesus, who is the one he raised from the dead and who is the one who will rescue us from the coming wrath.  *(CEB)*

God’s story, our story. ***C: Thanks be to God.***

**Engaging with the Story**

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

After Jesus’ death, his message of liberation and grace continued to spread thanks to the followers he left behind. Through the power of the Spirit, they continued to teach and preach and heal. And through the power of the Spirit, new apostles were called and commissioned – including some surprising and unexpected folks – people like Paul. Once a persecutor of Christians, after a spiritual experience on the road to Damascus, Paul becomes one of the most important missionaries and evangelists for the gospel.

In his lifetime, Paul travelled throughout the Roman Empire with other missionaries to share the good news of Jesus Christ. In many of the places they, travelled they also founded churches. The letter we read in worship today was sent to one of these Christian communities – the church in the Greek city of Thessalonica where Paul founded a church with the help of his co-worker Silas.

Paul’s trip to Thessalonica is also recorded in the book of Acts, chapter 17. There it tells us that while some people of the city – both Jews and Greeks – received their message, others did not. And those who joined Paul in professing that Jesus was the Messiah encountered resistance from the wider community. In fact, several of the new church members were hunted down by an angry mob and dragged before the city authorities. The accusation? That these Christians “were turning the world upside down.” (Acts 17:6)

What an accusation. “Turning the world upside down.” And what were the early Christians doing that was so dangerous and disruptive but loving one another – and loving their enemies. Treating slaves as equal with free citizens, and women equal with men. Upholding values that challenged the hierarchy and militarism of Roman culture – values like collaboration and non-violence and humility.1

Collaboration, non-violence, humility, unity, mutual care, care for those who are different than us/who perhaps don’t agree with us. These are all things we could use a whole lot more of in our world today. In this world that is already turned upside down by the human made climate crisis. Unseasonal temperatures, extreme weather events, rising sea levels, declining biodiversity – these are all nature’s way of telling us just how much human activity is turning the natural world upside down. It’s a daunting challenge to say the least. And a reality that quickly feels like too much and a problem that is too big to solve on our own.

We know that to address the climate crisis, we – as a global community – need to radically change how we live on this planet. Human action has turned the natural world upside down, and so only a turning upside down of current human patterns of behaviour and consumption will make a difference. But we can’t fix this on our own in isolation from one another. And yet, don’t we feel so alone when we face daunting challenges.

I’m certain this is one of the reasons Paul and these churches sent letters to each other. Certainly they wanted to stay in touch and catch up, but as we see in Paul’s words to the Thessalonians, it was also about encouragement. It was about holding each other in prayer. It was about reminding each other that they are in this together; and that they are stronger together as they seek to be a positive disruptive force in their time and place.

Buddhist monk and peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh teaches us that ‘when we come together as a group, with a common purpose and commitment to mindful action, we produce an energy of collective concentration far superior to our own individual concentration...Together, we can bring about real transformation for ourselves and for the world.’”2



*Cartoon by Brenna Quinlan, an Australian illustrator and educator specialising in climate justice, sustainability and permaculture.3*

We cannot wait to act. And we are stronger when we act together, which is why we are joining with other faith groups across Canada this week to act, learn & pray for the love of creation. As a community here at St Peter’s, we are committing to pray for creation today and next Sunday. We’re also asking you as individuals and families to participate at home this week in acting, learning, and praying for the love of creation. To help get you started, we’ve created a handout with some ideas for acting, learning, and praying. *(included at end of sermon)*

Also, there will be a test – sort of. I’m challenging all of us to come next week prepared to share one thing that we did to act, learn or pray for creation. And the purpose of this isn’t to put you on the spot, but for us to teach one another something we’ve learned, to encourage one another, and to feel just a little less alone – to see how our individual actions when we add them all together, can begin to amount to enough.

For in all that we do together, we remember that our work comes from faith, our effort comes from love, and our perseverance comes from hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God, our Father and our Mother. For we – and this whole creation – are loved by God, and God has chosen ***us*** to be witnesses of this same love.

Which is why this Earth week, along with countless others around the globe, we join our efforts for the love of creation, living out our hope that with God’s strength, another way is possible. AMEN.

**Earth Week 2024 – April 21-28**

*St Peter’s Ev. Lutheran Church, Cambridge/*[*www.stpeterscambridge.com*](www.stpeterscambridge.com)

**ACT**

 Spend time outdoors or in nature; Go for a walk!

 Pick up trash/recycling in your neighbourhood

 Take public transit or bike/run/walk somewhere you would normally drive

 Stop drinking bottled water. Buy a reusable water bottle if you don’t already have one.

 Plant a tree

 Repurpose an item or donate unneeded items to a second-hand store.

 Buy something second hand rather than brand new

 Calculate your plastic consumption. Are there ways to reduce this?

 Join or volunteer with an organization that cares/advocates for creation/climate/environment

 Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**LEARN**

 Attend “Watershed Re-Orientation” (Zoom event) on Tuesday, April 23rd at 12PM (<https://www.wellingtonwaterwatchers.ca/watershed_re-orientation>)

 Attend Earth Week Event on Plastics at Trillium United Church (450 King St E.) on Tues, April 23 at 7PM

 Attend Webinar on “Climate Change, Eco-Anxiety, and Habits of Hope” on Thursday, April 25 at 1PM (<https://presbyterian.ca/2024/03/12/upcoming-webinar-climate-change-eco-anxiety-and-habits-of-hope/>)

 Borrow a book from the library about climate change, nature, or the environment

 Watch a documentary about climate, nature, or the environment

 Do some self-directed research on an environmental topic or question that’s of interest to you

 Visit <https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/> to learn more about his initiative and available resources

 Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PRAY**

 Take a sacred pause outdoors or near a window. Find a spot to sit for 10 minutes and be still: what do you hear? What do you see? What do you smell? What do you feel?

 Get your hands dirty by starting to prep your garden or flower beds. Remember how God created humans from the soil.

 Create something – art, music, poetry, food, crafts, etc. Consider how we are made in God’s image to be creative.

 Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*God, creator of all living things, you fashioned a world in which lands and waterways, planets and animals, together meet the needs of all that you made. We pray that such vitality may flourish around the globe. Bless those who work the soil and who manage animals. Uphold their towns and villages. Nurture bees and other pollinators. Protect farmlands and ranches from drought and flood. Free children from forced labour in the fields. Grant an economy that can sustain those families who treasure a rural life. Teach us how to share with everyone the benefits of each harvest, and accept our gratitude for all sustenance you provide, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen (All Creation Sings, 47)*

…for the love of creation

*1 Dennis Edwards.* [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1iQCcnTiPY*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1iQCcnTiPY)

*2 FLC Earth Week 2024 email. Sent April 17, 2024.*

*3* [*https://www.brennaquinlan.com/*](https://www.brennaquinlan.com/)

**Hymn of the Day: ACS # 1065 ‘Can You Feel the Seasons Turning’**

1 Can you feel the seasons turning,

winds and waves grown wild and strange?

Can you feel creation groaning,

fearful of the coming change:

icecaps melting, oceans rising,

homes and habitations lost?

Can you feel the seasons turning?

Can you count the bitter cost?

2 Can you hear the creatures crying—

lynx and otter, wolf and whale?

Can you hear the Spirit sighing

as her children grieve and fail?

Nature's poor, the first to suffer

pay the price of human greed.

Can you hear the creatures crying,

begging us to stop and heed?

3 Can you feel the seasons turning?

Storm clouds gather in the skies.

All around us signs of warning

bid us open frightened eyes.

Called by God to serve as stewards

till earth's garden greens and thrives,

can we learn in time to listen?

Can we turn and change our lives?

*(Title: Can You Feel the Seasons Turning; Text: Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953; Text © 2008 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Music: Welsh melody; Public Domain. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Prayers of Intercession:**

(Each petition will end with By the power of the Spirit…’, and the

Congregation will sing – **Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer O God. Hear our prayer**.\*

God of Creation, we are thankful for your awesome work in creation. You have woven all of life together, and it is very good. We are grateful for all that protects and cares for your good works: the sunlight and water that sustains life, the earth that grounds and nourishes life, and the earth-beings that care for and protect life.

We ask your blessings on the actions we offer here and on the actions of those across the church and beyond during this Earth Week. By the power of the Spirit…’, **C:** **Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer O God. Hear our prayer**.\*

As we care for your creation, provide us with the humility and curiosity needed to continually learn about the marvels of your works, and to deepen our understanding of how our actions, good and bad, affect all of creation. Although the journey is hard, and our hearts might be afraid and filled with doubts, may we continue to act and learn towards climate justice, with the confidence and strength of your presence guiding us. By the power of the Spirit…’, **C:** **Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer O God. Hear our prayer**.\*

**For the care we can give and receive as your creatures, we give you thanks. This day we ask your care and protection for communities that are threatened by war and violence, extreme weather events and economic injustice.** By the power of the Spirit…’, **C:** **Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer O God. Hear our prayer**.\*

**We also ask your care and protection for our siblings and neighbours who are struggling or hurting. Especially we pray for Ruth, Linda, and each beloved child on our prayer list, and those we name before you now aloud or silently in our hearts… Embrace each one with your love.** By the power of the Spirit…’, **C:** **Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer O God. Hear our prayer**.\*

Creating God, may we continue to follow in the way that you are leading with hopeful and daring hearts, until we have reached your commonwealth of justice and peace for all. This we pray in the name of the Risen Christ, whose gift of abundant life is for the wellbeing of all creation.   
**Amen.**

*—Adapted from* [*Brenda Riley of Knox United Church*](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S-FLd5JUAo-ZZLu3Bkgu2qY-uHJXOTdw/edit)*’s adaptation from For the Love of Creation, “*[*Earth Sunday Service*](https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/resources/)*,” 2023.* Free to use with attribution.*.*

**Share the peace of Christ:**

P: Christ gives us the gift of peace that it might take root and grow in our homes, our communities, and all of creation. The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share a sign of this peace with one another, a sign of our commitment to spread Christ’s peace far and wide.

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn: ELW # 481 ‘Come to the Table’**

Come to the table of mercy,

prepared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hungry and thirsty,

come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's invitation;

receive from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of salvation;

drink of the blood of the Lamb.

*(Title: Come to the Table; Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942; Text © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695; Juniper Landing Music (admin. Word Music); and Word Music (ASCAP).* *All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

*Music: Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956; © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695; Juniper Landing Music (admin. Word Music); and Word Music (ASCAP).* *All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Offering Prayer:**

A: Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**Amen.\***

*\*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress.*

**You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.**

**Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:**

[**https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4**](https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4)

**Great Thanksgiving: ACS Setting 12: ‘Dialogue…’ (page 36) (spoken)**

The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

**ELW Setting 12: ‘Preface…’ *(Easter)***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,

the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;

who in dying has destroyed death,

and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ELW Setting 12: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy…’ *(page 36 )***

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of pow’r and God of might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.\***

**Thanksgiving at the Table:**

On the night before he showed us the full extent of his love,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

**Invitation to Communion:**

This is Christ’s table where all are nourished, and none go away empty. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good.

I invite those at home, and those in the building communing by fellowship cup, to take your bread or cracker as we say together, “The body of Christ, given for us.”

And, as we take our cup we say, “The blood of Christ, shed for us.”

**Communion Music: ACS # 1056 ‘God Bless to Us Our Bread’ *&***

**ELW # 824 ‘This Is My Father’s World’**

**ACS # 1056 ‘God Bless to Us Our Bread’**

God bless to us our bread,

and give bread to all those who are hungry,

and hunger for justice to those who are fed.

God bless to us our bread.

*(Title: God Bless to Us Our Bread; Text: Argentine traditional, collected by Federico Pagura, 1923–2016; tr. John L. Bell, b. 1949; Spanish text © 2002 World Council of Churches. All rights reserved.; English text © WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Argentine melody, collected by Frederico Paguara; arr. John L. Bell; arr. © WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**ELW # 824 ‘This Is My Father’s World’**

1 This is my Father's world,

and to my list'ning ears

all nature sings, and round me rings

the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world;

I rest me in the thought

of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;

his hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Father's world;

the birds their carols raise;

the morning light, the lily white,

declare their maker's praise.

This is my Father's world;

he shines in all that's fair.

In the rustling grass I hear him pass;

he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

3 This is my Father's world;

oh, let me not forget

that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world;

why should my heart be sad?

The Lord is king, let heaven ring;

God reigns, let earth be glad!

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P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you, in his grace.

***C: Amen.***

**Prayer after Communion:**

A: Shepherding God,

you have prepared a table before us

and nourished us with your love.

Send us forth from this banquet

to proclaim your goodness

and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,

our redeemer and friend.

Amen.\*

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**Blessing:**

P: Go and act, for the care of creation.  
Go and learn, for the sake of creation.  
Go and pray, for the love of creation.  
And may  
the care of God enfold you,  
the passion of the Risen Christ embolden you,  
and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit empower you,  
now and forever,  
Amen.

*—Written by Alydia Smith. From Alydia Smith, ed., Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis (Toronto: United Church Publishing House, 2023), p. 125. Free to use with attribution.*

**Sending Hymn: ACS # 1067 ‘For the Wholeness of the Earth’**

1 We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.

We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.

We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.

Can you feel it rising in you?

2 We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.

We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.

We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.

Can you feel it spinning in you?

3 Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.

Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.

Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.

Can you feel it rising in you?

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**Dismissal:**

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Share the good news

***C: Thanks be to God.  Alleluia! \****

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