**April 28, 2024 – Fifth Sunday in Easter Email/At Home Missal**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 09.30 am on April 28, 2024, can be found here:**

**Worship April 28, 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)

**……………………………………….**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 28TH-MAY 5TH, 2024**

**You will find the video for the service from this past Sunday at the following YouTube link:** [**https://youtu.be/gNpd25B1utQ**](https://youtu.be/gNpd25B1utQ)

**……………………………………….**

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

1. Apr. 28 Taize Service*(see below for further details)*
2. May 04 Menno Singers – My God is a Rock *(see below for further details)*
3. 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)*

**May 23 Bless This Night - Prayer Encounters Event *(see below for further details)***

June 02 Prayer in the Park *(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 28 – May 5, 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 13:1-13** *(“Faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest of these is love.”)*

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1. **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.**

**……………………………………….**

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.**

**……………………………………….  
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!**

**……………………………………….**

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).

**……………………………………….**

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)

**……………………………………….**

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)

**……………………………………….**

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.

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**BLESS THIS NIGHT, vespers `23; AN EVENING PRAYER SERVICE that seeks to honour night and darkness as times of blessing and renewal in our lives. A part of the St. Peter’s “Prayer Encounters” Series. Thursday May 23rd, 2024 at 7 pm here at St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church. Refreshments and fellowship to follow.**

**……………………………………….**

Sunday, June 2, 2024 - Prayer in the Park at Victoria Park in Kitchener. [Prayer in the Park](https://prayerinthepark.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8532b8cbd4d7d003628ed625b&id=8d80797221&e=ff9151ee38) is an opportunity for all Christians in Waterloo Region to gather in one place and pray. We hope it is just one part as we persist in prayer and taking up the shield of faith for Waterloo Region.

**……………………………………….**

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.

**……………………………………….**

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

**……………………………………….**

**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

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

**Assisting Minister: Kim Strassburger**

**Reader: John Leonard**

**Welcome remarks**

**Call to Worship:**

P: Morning has broken!

***C: We gather to greet the new day by praising God.***

P: God created us for relationship with God, one another, and the earth.

***C: Let us honour those relationships today and every day.***

P: We seek to live in right relationship with our siblings around the world, including the original and ongoing

stewards of this land on which we gather: the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Attawandaron peoples.

***C: Let us honour those relationships today and every day.***

P: We seek to care for God’s good creation and all that dwells within and upon the land.

***C: Let us honour those relationships today and every day.***

P: May we commit to new ways of honoring your Creation as a means of sharing Jesus’ transforming love,

***C: And let us seek God’s grace, justice and mercy for all. Amen.***

*Source: Adapted from Sunday Morning Sustainability: A service for Earth Sunday or Season of Creation by The National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program* [*www.nccecojustice.org*](http://www.nccecojustice.org)*.*

**Gathering Hymn: Evening Hymn from “Bless This Night” *(verses 2-4)* info here:**

2

Circled with creation’s beauty:

raven call and river song;

Life abundant on our journey

stirring wonder: we belong.

We embrace deep mystery,

loved by God and full of worth.

Who are we to be entrusted

with the care of our whole earth?

We gather together to stand in awe!

3

Voices joining with each other,

striving for a purpose clear,

make our daily life together

hard or easy: ever dear.

Practice in community

opens room for God to start

building justice for all people,

healing wrongs of hardened hearts.

We gather together to work for peace!

4

Praise to God, the one who sees me;

Jesus Christ, beloved one;

Holy Spirit, truth revealed;

all our blessings come from you.

Maker of the day and night,

called them good and rested too;

You who are the breath of life,

Praise and thanks we give to you.

We gather together to praise our God!

*(Title: Evening Hymn from “Bless This Night’ (verses 2-4); Text: © 2023 G. Mark Griffith, Rachel J. Joy, Heather L. Griffith*

*Music:* *© Steve Wolbrecht; Used with permission. All rights reserved.* [*https://fireweedliturgies.com/resources*](https://fireweedliturgies.com/resources)

**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 2)***

2 Word eternal, throned on high,

Word that brought to life creation,

Word that came from heav'n to die,

crucified for our salvation,

saving Word, the world restoring,

speak to us, your love outpouring.

*(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 Corinthians 1:10-18**

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

Now I encourage you, siblings, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Agree with each other and don’t be divided into rival groups. Instead, be restored with the same mind and the same purpose. My siblings, Chloe’s people gave me some information about you, that you’re fighting with each other. What I mean is this: that each one of you says, “I belong to Paul,” “I belong to Apollos,” “I belong to Cephas,” “I belong to Christ.” Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you, or were you baptized in Paul’s name? Thank God that I didn’t baptize any of you, except Crispus and Gaius, so that nobody can say that you were baptized in my name! Oh, I baptized the house of Stephanas too. Otherwise, I don’t know if I baptized anyone else. Christ didn’t send me to baptize but to preach the good news. And Christ didn’t send me to preach the good news with clever words so that Christ’s cross won’t be emptied of its meaning.

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved.  *(CEB)*

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

**Engaging with the Story**

***Pastor Laura did not prepare a sermon text for this service. Instead we did some group sharing about how we moved through Earth Week with the checklist/homework she gave us last week. We also worked in small groups to answer the following two questions:***

1. ***What did you do this last week to act, learn or pray? OR What is something you already do to care for creation?***
2. ***What is one new learning, insight, hope, or question you want to hold on to in relation to the climate crisis or care for creation?***

**Hymn of the Day: ACS # 973 ‘The Word Who Sang the Light into Creation’**

1 The Word who sang the light into creation,

who spoke to all through prophet voices bold

the warning cry, the promise of salvation,

shines ever as of old.

2 The Word is like the bush forever burning;

the Word pours down like showers on the land;

the Word is like the sun, our faces warming:

God's power till the end.

3 The Word came down to earth when all was ready,

made our time, made our space a dwelling place.

The Word who sheltered near the heart of Mary

brings us to birth in grace.

4 The Word of God is not an empty shadow,

but flesh and blood, like us, in us to live,

to laugh and weep with us in joy and sorrow,

to know us, yet forgive.

5 O Word, you are the "Yes" of all God's promise:

"Amen!" we shout; in you our faith is sure.

Oh, lead us to the light of God's own presence,

to life forevermore.

*(Title:**The Word Who Sang the Light into Creation; Text: Alberto Taulé, 1932–2007; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951; © 1982, 2000 Alberto Taulé. Published by OCP, 5536 N. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music:**Alberto Taulé, 1932–2007; © 1982, 2000 Alberto Taulé. Published by OCP, 5536 N. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Prayers of Intercession:**

*(Each petition will end with* May your resurrection life be real to us all…*’, and the*

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

Let us come before God in prayer, for the love of creation.

It is so hard to see your power in the midst of this world today, O God. What can love do when there is so much trauma, so much hate, so much violence, so much despair? Yet we also believe that only love can overcome. So we pray for the power of your love to heal in those bodies and minds and hearts that suffer, in those communities torn apart, in those leaders who rely on force, in those peoples oppressed, in your creation crying out for relief. May your resurrection life be real to us all… ***Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer O God. Hear our prayer***.\*

We pray for the power of your love to heal divisions caused by the dehumanizing worldviews of racism, bigotry, and discrimination; inequity caused by greed; displacement caused by war and by climate change; grief caused by callous disregard for dignity and life. Especially we pray for the people of Gaza and Haiti, Sudan and Ukraine. May your peace reign in our hearts and in our world, and May your resurrection life be real to us all… ***Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer O God. Hear our prayer***.\*

We pray for the power of your love to heal your beloved children facing illness or injury, hardship or despair. We pray especially for Linda, Luis, each beloved child on our prayer list, and each person we lift before you now out loud and silently and in our hearts… May your resurrection life be real to us all… ***Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer O God. Hear our prayer***.\*

We pray for the power of your love to heal your church, this city, our nation, your world. Wherever there is hardship or distress; wherever there is greed or injustice; for your whole creation crying out for relief, may your resurrection life be real to us all… ***Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer O God. Hear our prayer***.\*

And we pray that by the power of your love, we might be found always on the side of life, working for the flourishing of your kingdom, even in our days.

**Amen.**

*Adapted from: © 2024 Teri Peterson. Usage rights granted to BibleWorm subscribers at the LiturgyWorm Level and higher (*[*https://patreon.com/biblewormpodcast*](https://patreon.com/biblewormpodcast)*)*

**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 # 583 ‘Take My Life, That I May Be’ *(verses 1-2, 4)***

***Refrain***

***Take my life, that I may be***

***consecrated, Lord, to thee;***

***take my moments and my days;***

***let them flow in ceaseless praise.***

1 Take my hands and let them move

at the impulse of thy love;

take my feet and let them be

swift and beautiful for thee. *Refrain*

2 Take my silver and my gold,

not a mite would I withhold;

take my intellect and use

ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. *Refrain*

4 Take my will and make it thine;

it shall be no longer mine;

take my heart, it is thine own;

it shall be thy royal throne. *Refrain*

*(Title: Take My Life, That I May Be; Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, adap.; Spanish text: Vicente Mendoza, 1875-1955; Public Domain*

*Music: William Dexhheimer Parris, b. 1956; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954; Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

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**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 # 879 ‘For the Beauty of the Earth’**

**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. Music: Argentine melody, collected by Frederico Paguara; arr. John L. Bell; arr. © WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**ELW # 879 ‘For the Beauty of the Earth’**

1 For the beauty of the earth,

for the beauty of the skies,

for the love which from our birth

over and around us lies:

***Refrain***

***Christ, our God, to thee we raise***

***this our sacrifice of praise.***

2 For the wonder of each hour

of the day and of the night,

hill and vale and tree and flow'r,

sun and moon and stars of light: ***Refrain***

3 For the joy of ear and eye,

for the heart and mind's delight,

for the mystic harmony

linking sense to sound and sight: ***Refrain***

4 For the joy of human love,

brother, sister, parent, child,

friends on earth and friends above;

for all gentle thoughts and mild: ***Refrain***

5 For each perfect gift of thine,

peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for thyself, best gift divine,

to our world so freely giv'n: ***Refrain***

*(Title: For the Beauty of the Earth; Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.; Public Domain; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872; Public Domain*

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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 # 1042 ‘May This Church Be like a Tree’**

1 May this church be like a tree,

behind your house, there in your garden,

meeting-place for joy, and feast,

and simple prayer beneath its branches.

With its roots in earth so fertile,

and its arms raised high to heaven,

may this church bear fruits of justice,

acts of loving and compassion.

***Refrain***

***Tree ever growing by living water,***

***running eternal, flowing from God.***

***Tree ever growing by living water,***

***running eternal, flowing from God.***

2 May this church be like a tree

there in the street or in the plaza,

for the birds a nesting-branch,

for passersby a welcome shelter.

May it stand as if it's watching,

near my house, just round the corner,

waiting for this weary pilgrim

with its arms wide to embrace me. ***Refrain***

3 May this church be like a tree,

O God, that thrives where you have planted;

may it stand to show the way,

your way of loving and self-giving,

off'ring shade, and fruit for sharing,

giving up its wood for burning.

May this living church that names you

be a tree of life eternal. ***Refrain***

*(Title: May This Church Be like a Tree; Text: Pablo D. Sosa, 1933–2020; tr. Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951; English text © 2013 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Pablo D. Sosa; Music © 2011 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.)*

**Dismissal:**

A: Alleluia! Go in peace for the love of creation.

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

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