

**Morning Worship**  
**April 22, 2018**  
**Earth Day**

**We Gather in God's Name**

Greeting Rev. Dr. Alan Arnold

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *Trumpet Tune on "Christ Has Made the Sure Foundation"* Proulx

Choral Introit *We Are Standing on Holy Ground*

\*Call to Worship (from Psalm 19) David Brabham

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

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

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

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

Let us worship God.

\*Prayer of the Day

**Creator God, we pray to you from the midst of your creation. We ask you to love and sustain this Earth; and to love and sustain us, who cling to it as it spins on its course through the cosmos. Teach us to love the Earth as you love it: help us not to take it for granted. Creator God, you made us in your image: teach us to be good stewards of your creation. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

\*Hymn 15 *All Creatures of Our God and King*

Call to Confession (Hosea 4:1-3)

The prophet Hosea declared the following to Israel but it speaks to us as well: *"There is no loyalty or faithfulness, and no knowledge of God in the land.*

*Swearing, stealing, lying, murder and adultery break out; bloodshed follows bloodshed. The land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing."*

Let us confess our sins together, so that we may know the forgiveness of God.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is risen from the grave and has shattered the power of death, we are still held captive by fear and doubt. We hold on to suspicions and jealousies that set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We have neglected the poor and the hungry. In our pursuit of the "good life," we have gone along with injustice; we have ignored the cries of the oppressed. We pursue profits and pleasures that harm the land and pollute the waters. We have squandered the Earth's gifts on technologies of destruction. Have mercy on us, O God. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we and all your creatures may know the joy of life abundant, given through Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.**

(Time for silent confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

The majesty and power of the Creator are matched only by Divine mercy and love. Because of this love, made clear in Jesus Christ, we can rejoice that we are forgiven of all rebellion and strong-headedness. God is ever-present with us to guide us home. Friends, trust the good news of your salvation,

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Holy Interruption *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

**We Receive God's Word**

Children's Sermon

*Preschool-Kindergarten age children are dismissed to the Pray n' Play program held in the room beside the church nursery in the main Church building. Children who are in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade and higher should return to their seats in the congregation.*

Anthem *Good Shepherd of My Soul*

Lloyd Larson

Good shepherd of my soul, come dwell within me;  
Take all I am and mold Your likeness in me.  
Before the cross of Christ, this is my sacrifice:  
A life laid down and ready to follow.

The troubled find their peace in true surrender;  
The pris'ners, their release from chains of anger.  
In springs of living grace, I find a resting place  
A place to rise refreshed, determined to follow.

I'll walk this narrow road with Christ before me,  
Where thorns and thistles grow and cords ensnare me.  
Though doubted and denied, He never leaves my side,  
But lifts my head and calls me to follow.

The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His and He is mine forever.

And when my days are gone, my strength is failing;  
He'll carry me along through death's unveiling.  
Earth's struggles overcome, heaven's journey just begun,  
To search Christ's depths and ever to follow.

Good shepherd of my soul, come dwell within me.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 2:15, 9:8-11; Job 12:10, 38:1-7.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Alan Arnold

"Caring Creation"

**We Respond to God's Word**

\*Hymn 20 *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

\* Declaration of Faith (*Psalm 148*)

Hallelujah! Praise God from the heavens; praise God from the heights!  
Praise God, all you angels; Praise God, all you multitudes in heaven!

**Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars! Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Most High. For God commanded and they were created. God established them forever and ever; God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise God from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!**

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

**Sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, royalty and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of God, for God's name alone is exalted;  
God's glory is above earth and heaven.

**God has raised up a horn for God's people, praise for all the faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to God. Hallelujah!**

\**Gloria Patri* (hymn 581)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

Prayers of The People (concluding with 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 Invitation

Offertory *Variation on "Christ Has Made the Sure Foundation"* Proulx

\* Praise of God *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

**We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee**

Prayer of Dedication

**We Depart in God's Name**

\* Hymn 22 *God of the Sparrow*

\* Benediction and Sending

\* Choral Response *Amen*

\* Postlude *Guide My Feet*

