

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4th Sunday of Easter

April 22, 2018

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

We thank you, O God, for the amazing ways in which the world of your creation is woven together into the beautiful fabric that it is. Show us how to be those who care for your world and bring your shalom of wholeness to it; through Christ our Lord, who walked on this earth and shared its beauty with us. Amen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Earth and All Stars

John Leavitt

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear the proclamation of faith: Christ is risen from the dead! The Spirit is poured out. Lives are transformed.

God is active in our world. God brings hope and healing.

Hear the call of God: The Spirit of God invites us into community. We are called to see beyond ourselves, and to join in loving care for all those around us.

We accept God's call, and we rejoice in the gift of community.

Hear a challenge for today: The Earth is stressed by the heavy impact of human use. The whole of God's creation is groaning, crying out in pain.

We name the Earth as part of our community. We extend our love to all of God's creation.

People of faith, gather now to worship God the creator and redeemer of the world. Gather now to be transformed by God's compassionate love.

We praise with joy the world's creator, God of justice, love and peace!

*SONG OF PRAISE

Morning Has Broken

Hymnal, No. 664

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*ADMITTING OUR BROKENNESS

Forgive us, Creator God.

We too long have taken

a short-sighted attitude

toward your creation, our home.

Not content to plunder natural resources

and foul the places that sustain life,

we claim license from scripture

granting us dominion

while ignoring the stewardship requirements.

Forgive our blindness and irresponsibility.

We promise to try harder

to love and tend your creation, our home.

(Time of silent reflection)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS
The Lord be with you,
And also with you.

*THE PEACE

*SONG OF RESPONSE Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works Hymnal, No. 21

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING Lucy Lanning

SCRIPTURE READING
Genesis 2:4-9, 15-19 Page No. 2
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

SCRIPTURE READING
John 1:1-5 Page No. 862
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE Creation Matters Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH For The Fruit of All Creation Hymnal, No. 36

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel**

**from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

From the Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

AN EARTH DAY PRAYER (see insert)

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Psalm 23

Diane Bish

*DOXOLOGY Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Hymnal, No. 606

*DEDICATION PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG God, You Spin the Whirling Planets Hymnal, No. 23

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Guide My Feet

*POSTLUDE For the Beauty of the Earth Flor Peeters

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for April 29: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8.

The **Food for Friends** item of the month for April is **can openers**. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

Ushers for today's service are Larry and Lisa Upton.

You're invited to a special presentation on supporting ministry through **Legacy Giving**, hosted by Dwight Mission and Texas Presbyterian Foundation. This Tuesday **April 24 - 7PM** - Memorial Presbyterian Church - Norman, OK

Sunday, April 29 join us for a spaghetti feast fund-raiser following worship. Proceeds go to the Camp and Conference fund. If you'd like to bring something, sign-up is in the hallway.

In preparation for their move, Norma and Bill Taylor are holding a Garage/Estate Sale at Memorial on **Saturday, April 28**. Proceeds will be going to the Camp and Conference fund.

We will also hold a church-wide garage sale on **August 4th**, so start gathering those items that are ready to be loved by another family! More details to come.

We have a new prayer chain! Just send an email to MPCprayerchain@gmail.com with "Add Me" in the subject

SUNDAY	April 22
9:30 A.M. – Sunday School	
10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments	
10:55 A.M. – Worship Service	
MONDAY	April 23
7:00 P.M. – Worship Committee Meeting	
TUESDAY	April 24
7:00 P.M. – Legacy Giving	
WEDNESDAY	April 25
3:15 P.M. – Kids' Club	
5:00 P.M. – Children's Choir	
6:30 P.M. – Chancel Choir	
SATURDAY	April 28
8:00 A.M. – Taylor Estate Sale	
SUNDAY	April 29
9:30 A.M. – Sunday School	
10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments	
10:55 A.M. – Worship Service	
12:00 P.M. – Spaghetti Lunch	

AN EARTH DAY PRAYER

We offer you our thanks, Creator God, for this wondrous planet that is our home. We are moved to awe when we are touched by the beauty, complexity, diversity, abundance and enormous scale of this world — this one small corner of your creation.

On this Earth Day weekend, we join with people from all around the world. As part of a global community, we lift up our heartfelt hopes for the health and sustainability for your Earth, and for all that dwells within it. We have read the news, O God, and we have seen the evidence of environmental problems ranging from local to global. We are deeply concerned, and we do want to find paths to healing.

Move within us, O God, in a time of silence.

Call us to compassion at the state of the Earth.

(Time of silent prayer)

We lift up, too, our grief and our confusion in the face of these difficult problems. We feel pain and loss at the extinction of species. We feel anguish at spreading health problems that spring from environmental causes. We are anxious about diminished resources and demolished habitats. We hear mixed messages and feel divided loyalties. We want to do the right thing, but it can be hard to find truth, and hard to know what to do.

Move within us, O God, in a time of silence.

Receive our troubled emotions and our confused thoughts.

(Time of silent prayer)

We name and confess our personal involvement in the Earth's distress. Knowingly and consciously, we each engage in actions and behaviors that take a toll on our planet, and that degrade our community.

Move within us, O God, in a time of silence.

Receive our confession of hurtful acts.

(Time of silent prayer)

We also name and confess our lack of engagement, our lack of action. We have not made practical choices or taken realistic actions that would have made us agents of help and healing for the Earth. We have been silent and distant when we could have spoken and been engaged.

Move within us, O God, in a time of silence.

Receive our confession of inaction.

(Time of silent prayer)

We know, O God, that many of the environmental problems that so concern us are not driven by personal choices alone. The state of the world is shaped by governmental policies, economic institutions, corporate deeds, social values, and diffuse cultural trends. While these are not matters of private choice, we do admit to our participation in these broader powers.

Move within us, O God, in a time of silence.

Receive our complicity and involvement in the powers and principalities.

(Time of silent prayer)

These are difficult and changing times. The very rules of life and ethics are changing around us. We live in a world with an exploding human population, and with astounding and powerful new technologies. We take heed of new scientific discoveries, and discover fresh wisdom in ancient truths that were once thought stale. We are coming to realize that the very things we have held close to our hearts as normal, good and right are now at the core of what brings death, destruction and instability.

Move within us, O God, in a time of silence.

Receive our fear and confusion in this time of change.

(Time of silent prayer)

Gracious and loving God, God of the Exodus and Spirit of the prophets, God made flesh among us in Jesus our Christ — be with us. Do not allow us to turn away from the pain and confusion that surrounds us. Call us now, as you always have, to be engaged and relevant to this moment in history. Call us to new visions, new understandings and new relationships. Fill us with your deep forgiveness and lead us into life-giving hope. Grant us courage to face the challenges of this day.

Move within us, O God, in a time of silence.

Receive our commitment to faithfulness.

(Time of silent prayer)

Spirit of God, we rejoice that you have moved within us and enriched our prayer. By your grace and power, we are forgiven and made new. By your love, we find healing for our hurt, and we are called to bring healing to your creation. With hope and joy, we raise these prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.