

Wesley United, Cambridge
Easter 4, Year A
April 22, 2018
Theme: Earth Sunday

* = stand as able.

Bold = congregational response

Hymn Books: VU (*Voices United*); MV (*More Voices*)

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

Gathering Music: Hymn Sing
Highlighted Announcements

OPENING TO DIVINE PRESENCE

Greeting & Lighting of Christ Candle
The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.
The world and all who dwell in it.

Choral Introit: Lord, Your Hands Have Formed this World
Verses 1-4 – Choir Only

Congregation – verse 5 Only:

**Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
who, from our mother's arms, has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

Acknowledgement of Place

As we gather in this place, we remember with gratitude that we live and worship on lands that are, by law, the traditional territories of the Neutral, Anishnawbe, and Haudenosaunee peoples. We gather on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

May we live with respect on this land, and in peace and friendship with its people.

Question: What is one thing you noticed this week about the wonder, awe, majesty, power of nature?

*Hymn "Called by earth and sky" #135 MV

*The Peace

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

(Sharing signs of peace and reconciliation)

Call to Worship (based on Genesis 1)

One: ...God said "that's good!"

Many: "That's very, very, very good!"

Children's Time

Hymn "Like a Rock" #92 MV

The Lord's Prayer (sung)) #959 VU

(NOTE – If you wish to make this more inclusive, you may sing "Creator, Redeemer..." or "Our Father, Our Mother...")

A TIME OF REFLECTION

Scripture Reading: Psalm 104:10-30

- Bev

Montague

This is the Good News.

Thanks be to God.

**Sung Response "Behold, behold, I make all things new"
(#115 MV)**

A Time of Confession

- Sharing
- Sung Response "Kyrie Eleison"
(translation = "God have mercy")
- Prayer of Confession (from North American Conference on Christianity and Ecology)

Contemporary Reading: excerpt from "A Song of Faith"

(United Church of Canada 2006 Faith Statement)

**Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God
the Creator,**

who is both in creation and beyond it.

**All parts of creation, animate and inanimate, are
related.**

All creation is good.

**We sing of the Creator,
who made humans to live and move
and have their being in God.
In and with God,
we can direct our lives
toward right relationship
with each other and with God.
We can discover our place as one strand in the web
of life.
We can grow in wisdom and compassion.
We can recognize all people as kin.
We can accept our mortality and finitude, not as a
curse,
but as a challenge to make our lives and
choices matter.**

*Hymn "Touch the earth lightly" #307 VU

Living with Respect in Creation

Contemporary Reading: "Earth Credo"
(SOURCE – Elizabeth S. Tapia, Philippines)

THANKSGIVING

Prayers of the People

A Prayer for Healing

**We join with the earth and with each other to bring new life
to the land
To restore the water
To refresh the air
To renew the forests,
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures
To celebrate the seas
To rejoice in the sunlight
To sing a song of the stars
To recall our destiny
To renew our spirits
To reinvigorate our bodies
To create the human community
To remember our children**

To promote justice and peace.

We pray in your name, O God. Amen.

(SOURCE - Environmental Liturgy: Grassroots Coalition for
Environmental and Economic Justice, Clarksville, Md.)

Offering/Offertory Music: Let All Creation Glorify the Lord!

- Julie M. Wright

Sung Response "Behold, behold, I make all things new" (#115 MV)

*Prayer of Dedication

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.

The world and all who dwell in it.

With our gifts we celebrate the sacredness of all creation

And recommit ourselves to nurturing new life.

And God said "That's good!"

That's very, very, very good!

So be it!

Amen!

SENDING FORTH

*Call to Ministry

We go forth from the worship of God

To be faithful to the vision of Jesus

To affirm each person's dignity

And to cherish the living earth.

*Hymn "All Praise to You" #297 VU

*Benediction

*Sung Response "You are Holy" #45 MV

Postlude