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ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

The Reverend Emily Blair Stribling, preaching
Connie Mayo, Music Director

Morning Prayer
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Earth Day: Restore our Earth
April 25, 2021

Prelude: *Menuet* Arthur Bird

Leader: As we begin our time together today, I invite us into a moment of silence as we remember the Wabanaki people who have inhabited this land for thousands of years. We offer our gratitude to them for taking such exquisite care of this beautiful place we call home. And we pray for the wisdom to do the same.

Leader: O God, who called all life into being
Congregation: **The earth, sea, and sky are yours.**
Leader: Your presence is all around us
Congregation: **Every atom is full of your energy.**
Leader: Your spirit enlivens all who walk the earth
Congregation: **With her we yearn for justice to be done.**

Leader: For creation to be freed from bondage
Congregation: **For the hungry to be fed.**
Leader: For captives to be released
Congregation: **For your kingdom of peace to come to earth.**

The Invitatory
Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen
Congregation: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Opening Hymn 416 *For the Beauty of the Earth (in back of this bulletin)*

Canticle 12 (Part II)
Let the earth glorify God
Praise and highly exalt God for ever.
Glorify God. O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth
Praise and highly exalt God for ever.

Glorify God, O springs of water, seas, and streams,
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify God,
Praise and highly exalt God for ever.

Glorify God, O beasts of the wild,
and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify God.
Praise and highly exalt God for ever.

Lesson: 1 John 3:16-24
We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?
Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.
And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.
Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 23 *Psalm of David*

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Gospel: John 10:11-18

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John
Congregation: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Presider: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon The Rev. Emily Blair Stribling

Silence

A Creed from the Iona Community

We believe in God whose love is the source of all life
and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all
and whose love, defeating even death,
is our glorious promise of freedom.
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt,
in God we trust; and, in the name of Jesus Christ,

we commit ourselves, in the service of others,
to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth
and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,
to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love,
and in the company of the faithful so to be the church,
for the glory of God. Amen.

Presider: The Peace of the Lord be always with you,
Congregation: **And also with you.**

The Prayers

Leader: The Lord be with you
Congregation: **And also with you**
Leader: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer *(chanted – in back of bulletin)*

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 for ever. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Leader: O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.
Congregation: **Amen.**

Collect

Christ our life,
You are alive - in the beauty of the earth
in the rhythm of the seasons
in the mystery of time and space

You are alive - in the tenderness of touch
in the heartbeat of intimacy
in the insights of solitude

You are alive - in the creative possibility
of the dullest conversation
of the dreariest task
the most threatening event.

(Adapted from "Resurrection Prayer" a poem by Rev. Kathy Calloway)

The Prayers of the People
In this Easter season, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, those in need, and all the members of God's family.

We give thanks and praise O God of creation, for the grandeur of all that you have made,
We thank you, God.

From heedless misuse and dishonoring of the wonders of your hand,
Good Lord deliver us.

From squandering resources, abusing our companion species, and polluting the habitat we share,
Good Lord deliver us,

For the conviction that you have called us to love and restore the Earth,
Strengthen us, O Spirit.

Creator God, take our feet off the path of destruction. Help us to treasure, conserve, and restore the resources of the Earth.
Strengthen us, O Spirit.

We pray for all who are victims of war, for refugees who live with violence and uncertainty, for victims of domestic violence.
May we open our hearts to deeper compassion, awareness, and connection with those who live with threat and danger.

We pray for all who work tirelessly that justice may come, for renewed energy in their struggle and for discernment when the path of peace is hard to see, for those feeling outnumbered, out-argued or overwhelmed.
May we have the courage to say, I stand for peace

We pray for guidance and a listening heart, that we may be ready in this Easter season to embrace your promise of rebirth.
May we be strengthened by your Spirit as we go on to do your work.

We remember those who have died and blessed us with their presence.
Assure us of your Easter promise, O God, and keep us united with them in your everlasting love.

Members of the congregation are invited to add their own prayers and thanksgivings at this time.

The Prayer of St. Brendan
Lord, we will trust You, help us to journey
beyond the familiar and into the unknown.
Give us the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You.
Christ of the mysteries, we trust You to be stronger than each storm within us.
We will trust in the darkness and know that our times are in Your hand.
Tune our spirit to the music of heaven,
and somehow, make our obedience count for You.

The Earth does not belong to us.
We belong to the earth.
All things are connected and interdependent,
Like the blood that unites a family.
We did not weave the web of life.
We are merely a strand in it.
Whatever we do to the web,
We do to ourselves and to our descendants.
Let us give thanks for God's gift of creation.
We give thanks that all things are held together in Christ.

Benediction

Sending Hymn *Now the green blade riseth (in the back of this bulletin)*

Postlude: *Air* Samuel Wesley

Dismissal

Announcements

You are invited to stay for Virtual Coffee Hour

Opening Sentences: Neil Paynter from "Crucified Earth" © Iona Community/Wild Goose Publications. Used with permission. www.ionabooks.com
Prayers of the People: Rev. Kathy Calloway "Resurrection Prayer" from *In Love With the Life of Life.* © Iona Community/Wild Goose Publications. Used with permission. www.ionabooks.com
Closing Sentences: John Harrison from "Footprints in the Cosmos" © Iona Community/Wild Goose Publications. Used with permission. www.ionabooks.com

416 Praise to God

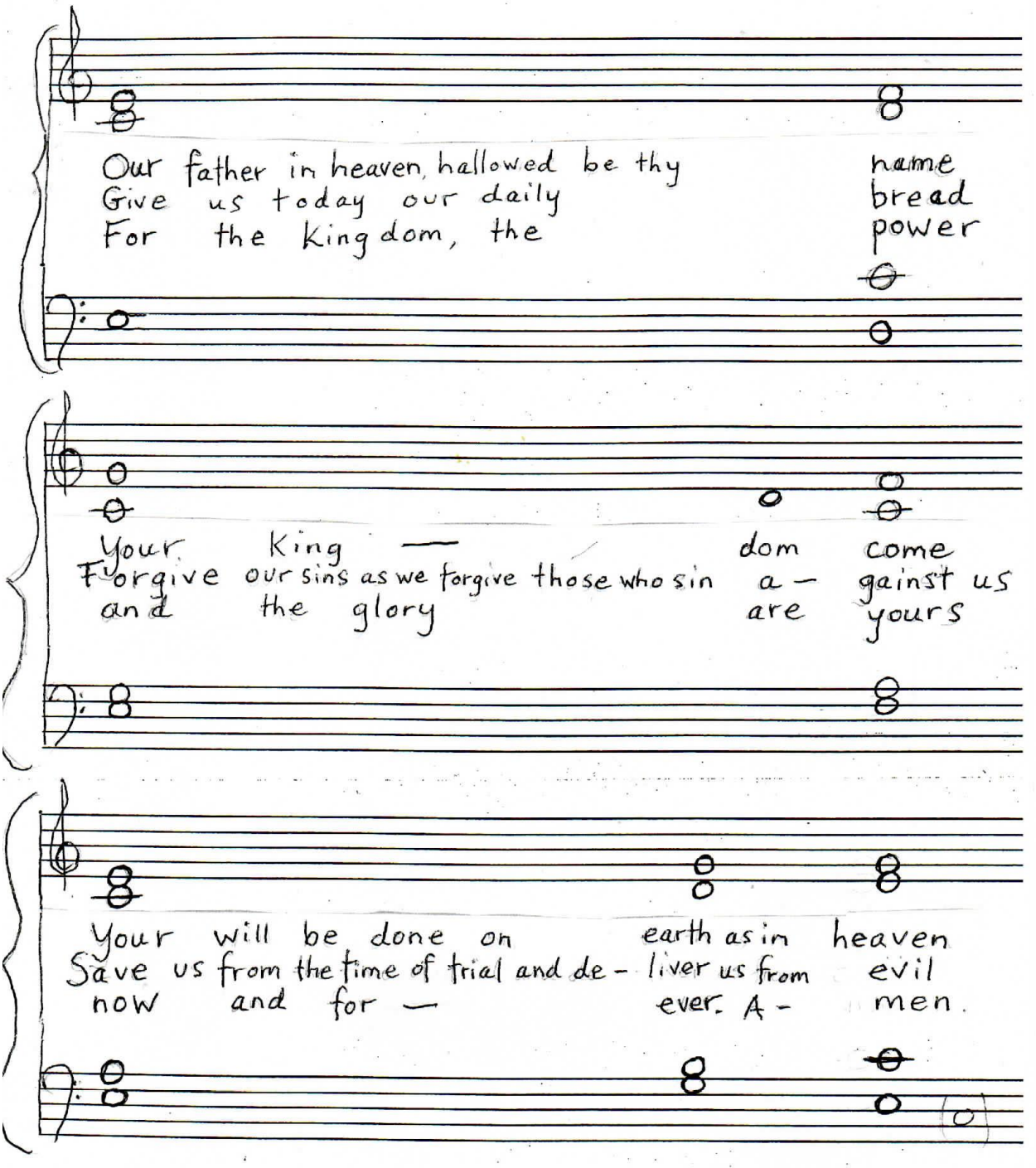


6 For each perfect gift of thine
to the world so freely given,
faith and hope and love divine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven

Refrain

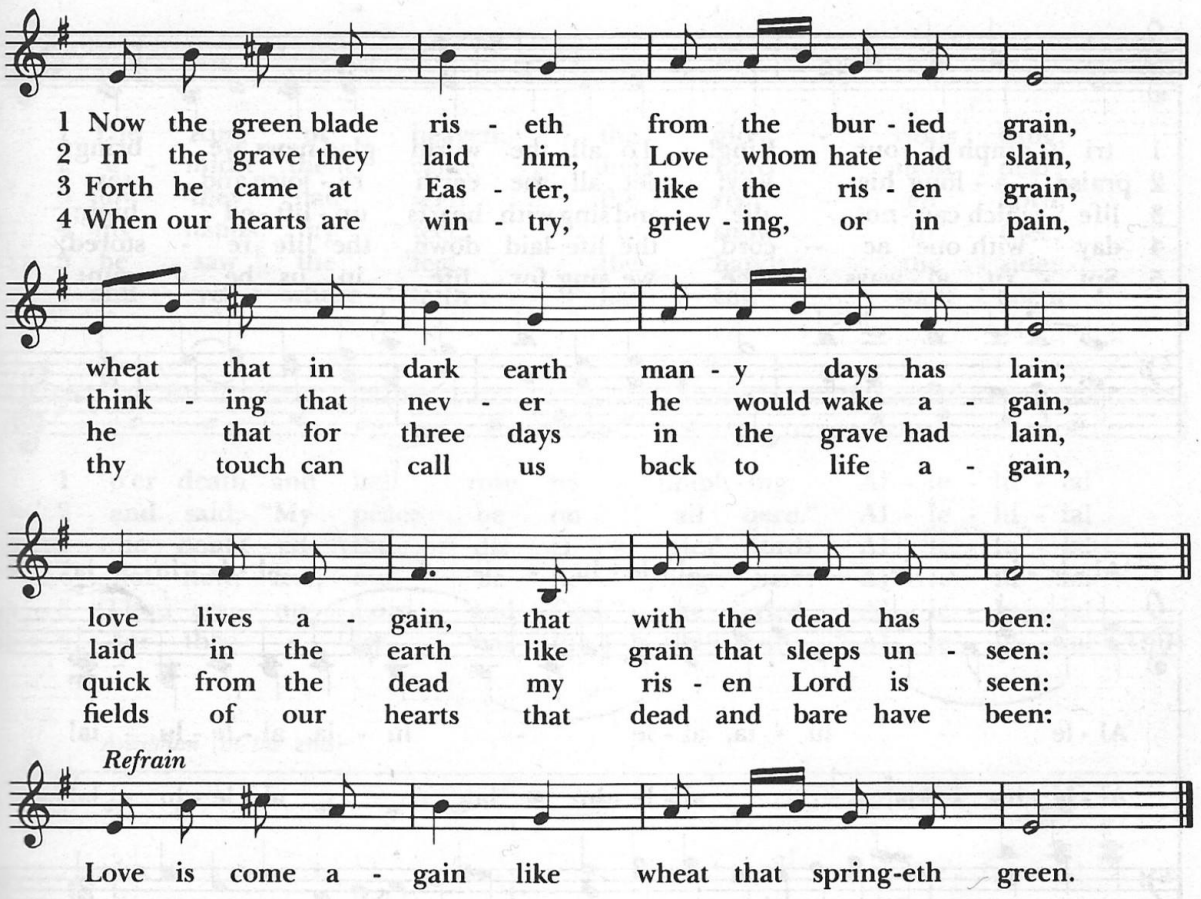
Words: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt.
Music: *Lucerna Laudoniae*, David Evans (1874-1948)

77. 77 with Refrain


Our father in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Give us today our daily bread
For the kingdom, the power
Your King — dom come
Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin a - gainst us
and the glory are yours
Your will be done on earth as in heaven
Save us from the time of trial and de - liver us from evil
now and for — ever. A - men.

Easter

204



Words: John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958), alt.
Music: *Noël nouvelet,* medieval French carol

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