Westminster
Presbyterian Church

APRIL 25, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
EARTH DAY SUNDAY

Welcome and Announcements — **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Gathering Words — **Jim and Francis Bonk**

Your love, O God, reaches beyond space and time.
We are astonished at your vast creation—

Innumerable galaxies surrounded by dark matter,
elegant structures of staggering variety,
the interplay of matter and energy,
the pull of gravity and the speed of light
showing forth your wisdom and glory, O God!

Formed of stardust, made in your image,
we are participants in your ever renewing and ever-expanding universe.
May we discover ourselves lost in wonder, love, and praise
in the midst of this Christ-soaked universe
and our home on planet earth.

Opening Hymn No. 22 — God of the Sparrow — ROEDER

1 God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

2 God of the earthquake
God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

3 God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

4 God of the hungry
God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

5 God of the neighbor
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love

How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

Prayer of Confession **Jim and Francis Bonk**

How many and wonderful are Your works, our God!
In wisdom you have made them all!

But we confess, dear God,
as creatures privileged with the care and keeping of Your Creation
that we have abused your Creation gift
through arrogance, ignorance, and greed.

We confess risking permanent damage to Your handiwork,
impoverishing Creation's ability to bring You praise.
Your handiwork displays Your glory,
leaving all of us without excuse but to know You.
Yet, we often are unaware of how deeply we have hurt
Your good earth and its marvelous gifts.

We often are unaware
of how our abuse of creation has also been an abuse of ourselves.
O God, how long will it take before we awaken to what we have done?

For our wrongs, O God, we ask forgiveness.
In sorrow for what we have done, we offer our repentance.
May we, your creatures, increasingly come to love Your Creation
as we increasingly come to love You,
in your Holy name we pray. Amen

Musical Lament Senzenina SOHLANGANA EZULWINI

What have we done?
What sin have we committed?
What have we done wrong?

Assurance of Forgiveness **Jim and Francis Bonk**

Do not fear, says God.
I have called you by name; you are mine.

I am doing a new thing within you. Now it springs forth!
By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

Prayer of Illumination **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading Psalm 23 *Translation by Bobby McFerrin*

The Lord is my Shepard, I have all I need
She makes me lie down in green meadows
Beside the still waters, She will lead.

She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs
She leads me in a path of good things
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk, through a dark and dreary land
There is nothing that can shake me
She has said She won't forsake me
I'm in her hand.

She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes
She anoints my head with oil
And my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me
All the days of my life
And I will live in her house
Forever, forever and ever.

Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter
And to the Holy of Holies
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World, without end. Amen.

Sermon All We Need **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 713 Touch the Earth Lightly TENDERNESS

Prayer of the People **Jim and Francis Bonk**

We pray in the name of the One who is to come, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray together:

O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere!
Release a space to plant your Presence here.
Imagine your possibilities now.
Embody your desire in every light and form.
Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.
Untie the knots of failure binding us,
as we release the strands we hold of others' faults.
Help us not forget our Source,
Yet free us from not being in the Present.
From you arises every Vision, Power and Song from gathering to gathering.
Amen—
May our future actions grow from here!

Closing Hymn No. 36 For the Fruit of All Creation AR HYD Y NOS

Benediction **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

*Note: The Gathering Words are adapted from the PCUSA Book of Common Worship. The Prayer of Confession is from the *North American Conference on Christianity and Ecology.*
The Lord's Prayer is a retranslation from the Aramaic by Mark Berry from the *Emerging Church Movement*.