



TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
April 24, 2022

PRELUDE "Easter People Raise Your Voices" arr. Kevin McChesney
featuring Central Bells

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Linda Stephan

PASSING THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP Jennifer Yeatts

Leader: We gather on solid ground, earth created by our holy God who cares for all living things.

People: We enter this sanctuary to quiet our temporal bodies. We open our hearts.

Leader: We are here only for a time, so we can only claim this creation as tenants.

People: The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.

Leader: We don't deserve the gift of this land. Our fallen nature should mean we don't get to enjoy its fruits, its beauty, its bounty. But Creator God is gracious and generous.

People: May we be daily grateful, faithful, and humble. May we be just, kind, generous, and honest with each other, honoring the gift of creation to preserve the inheritance of those yet to come.

Leader: Our life and livelihoods depend upon other creatures and upon this land. To live, we must daily break the body and shed the blood of Creation. When we do this knowingly, lovingly, skillfully, reverently,

People: it is a sacrament.

Leader: When we do it ignorantly, greedily, clumsily, destructively,

People: it is a desecration.

Leader: Let our daily actions be a sacrament.

People: Let us honor the earth and one another in humility and love.

HYMN "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" UMH No. 150

BLESSING THE CHILDREN Rev. Linda Stephan
"All Things Bright and Beautiful" (all sing)

***All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings. All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.***

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE Jennifer Yeatts

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(First Nations Version)

O Great Spirit, our Father from above, we honor your name as sacred and holy. Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below. Provide for us day by day--the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon. The corn, the squash, and the wild rice. All the things we need for each day. Release us from the things we have done wrong, in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us. Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road, and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways. May it be so!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC "There is Power in the Name of Jesus" by Russell Maudlin
featuring Central's Chancel Choir, Larry Winegar, soloist

A mother barely twenty, out there on her own. A teenage boy in prison, before he's even grown. The illness of a loved one, a widow no one calls. There is one solution, an answer for it all. There is power in the name of Jesus, there is hope there is strength, and victory to claim. There is healing in His holy presence, there is power in His name. A nation needing mercy, fighting for her life. A church that needs revival, a broken man and wife. In the name of Jesus chains of bondage fall. Prayers are heard and answered, when God's children call.

Scripture Reading Psalm 19: 1-6; Romans 8: 18-25 (NRSV)
Leader: The Word of God for the People of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Creation Groans" John Flesher

TIME FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO GIVING Rev. Linda Stephan

DOXOLOGY UMH No. 94
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ,
whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS Rev. Linda Stephan

HYMN "I Sing the Almighty Power of God" UMH No. 152

BENEDICTION John Flesher

Leader: This we know, the earth does not belong to us.

All: We belong to the earth.

Leader: This we know, all things are connected.

All: Like the blood that unites one family.

Leader: This we know, we did not weave the web of life.

All: We are merely a strand in it.

Leader: This we know, whatever we do to the web,

All: We do to ourselves.

Leader: Let us give thanks for the gift of creation.

All: Let us give thanks that all things hold together in Christ.

Leader: Bless to us, O God, the moon that is above us, the earth that is beneath us, the friends who are around us, your image deep within us. Amen.

(from the Iona Abbey Worship Book)

CHORAL BENEDICTION “God Be With You Till We Meet Again” by R.V. Williams

POSTLUDE “Final from Symphony No. 1” by Louis Vierne
featuring Carolyn Hoff, organ

*You are invited to remain seated for the postlude as part of your worship experience.
(If you choose to exit the sanctuary during the postlude, please do so quietly. Thank you.)*

TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS:

PASTOR: Rev. Linda Stephan GUEST SPEAKERS: John Flesher, Jennifer Yeatts

MUSIC: Tom Bara and Carolyn Hoff, organists; Michael Coonrod, pianist;
Central’s Chancel Choir, Jeffrey Cobb, director; Larry Winegar, soloist

GREETER: Becky Mang AUDIO/VIDEO TEAM: Tom Atkinson, Tom Bartlett,
Abby Ondrajka, Jim Ondrajka and John Sonnemann

Kim Burch, pre-production coordinator

Silvio Ciccone, production director

**Thank you
for joining us today!**



SCAN TO GIVE YOUR GIFT NOW



SCAN TO CHECK IN NOW