

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

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EARTH DAY
APRIL 25, 2021
11AM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

**If the world is to be healed through human efforts,
I am convinced it will be through ordinary people
whose love for this world is even greater
than their fear. (Joanna Macy)**



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 www.ELPC.church

As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God — the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God's unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ's radical hospitality to all. (Strategic Vision mission statement, 2011)

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION APRIL 25, 2021 — 11 AM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"
"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
Keith Kolander
Wayne Wold

OPENING WORDS

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

INTRODUCTION OF EARTH DAY THEME

Susan Spangler

CALL TO WORSHIP

David Jennings-Smith

Leader: Spirit of God, by your wisdom exists both life and death, growth and decay, sunshine and storm, the nest and the hunt.

People: **We children of Eden join in the great and mysterious rhythms of your creation and worship you this day.**

Leader: May we remember to trust you, to care for your earth, and call forth the will to see your creation restored.

People: **May we stand beside all peoples and all creatures; may we walk gently over soil and flora; may our lives be a canticle of praise to you, Great Spirit, our Creator God.**

HYMN (*vs. 2, 3, 5*)

"Canticle of the Sun"

Refrain: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and all creation is shouting for joy!
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field, and sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!

Praise for the wind that blows through the trees, the seas' mighty storms, the gentlest breeze;
They blow where they will, they blow where they please to please the Lord! (*Refrain*)

Praise for the rain that waters our fields, and blesses our crops so all the earth yields;
From death unto life her mystery revealed springs forth in joy! (*Refrain*)

Praise for the earth who makes life to grow, the creatures you made to let your life show;
The flowers and trees that help us to know the heart of love! (*Refrain*)

PRAYER FOR EARTH DAY



GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-9

Kathryn Ophardt

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #20 (*vs. 1, 3*)

ROYAL OAK

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Refrain: **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; God made their tiny wings.** (*Refrain*)

**The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.** (*Refrain*)

TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

HYMN #250

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

PROMISE

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 40:12-18, 21-23

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the spirit of the Lord, or as his counselor has instructed him? Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice? Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales; see, he takes up the isles like fine dust. Lebanon would not provide fuel enough, nor are its animals enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

SERMON

“Foundational Answers”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Bush
Nancy Heastings

OFFERING INVITATION

Nancy Heastings

We offer our gifts in response to God's love, and the grace of Jesus Christ, which we seek to make known through the ministries of this congregation. Please visit www.ELPC.church/donate if you would like to make a contribution.

HYMN #14 (*vs. 1, 2, 5*)

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

DIX

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,

For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,

Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: (*Refrain*)

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;

For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: (*Refrain*)

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

"Fanfare"

Dr. Moore, *organ*
William Mathias



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

Liturgists: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Nancy Heastings
David Jennings-Smith
Susan Spangler
Kathryn Ophardt

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*
Music Director
Adrianna Cleveland, *Cantor*
David Jennings-Smith, *Cantor*

A/V: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines
Matt Stuftt

As part of ELPC's mission to extend radical hospitality to all, our full worship service is now being livestreamed on:

Facebook

www.facebook.com/EastLibertyPresbyterian

YouTube

<http://tiny.cc/elpc-youtube>

and archived at www.ELPC.church

If you would like to make a contribution, please visit:
www.ELPC.church/donate

CANTICLE OF THE SUN (vs. 2, 3, 5)

Marty Haugen

REFRAIN

The heav-ens are tell-ing the glo-ry of God, and all cre-
a-tion is shout-ing for joy, Come, dance in the for-est, come,
play in the field, and sing, sing to the glo-ry
of the Lord. Lord; Sing,
sing to the glo-ry of the Lord! *Fine*

VERSES

1. Sing to the sun, the bring-er of day, he car-ries the
2. Praise to the wind, that blows through the trees, the seas mighty
3. Praise to the rain, that wa-ters our fields, and bless-es our
4. Praise to the fire, who gives us his light, the warmth of the
5. Sing to the earth, who makes life to grow, the crea-tures you
6. Praise to the death, that makes our life real, the know-ledge of

1. light of the Lord in his rays, the moon and the stars, who
2. storms, the gen-tl-est breeze, they blow where they will, they
3. crops, so all the earth yields, from death un-to life her
4. sun to bright-en our night, he danc-es with joy, his
5. made to let your life show, the flow-ers and trees that
6. loss that helps us to feel, the Gift of Your-self, your

to Refrain

1. light up the way un-to your throne.
2. blow where they please, to please the Lord.
3. mys-try con-cealed, springs forth in joy.
4. spir-it so bright, he sings of you.
5. help us to know the Heart of Love.
6. Pres-ence re-vealed to bring us home.

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL (vs. 1, 3)

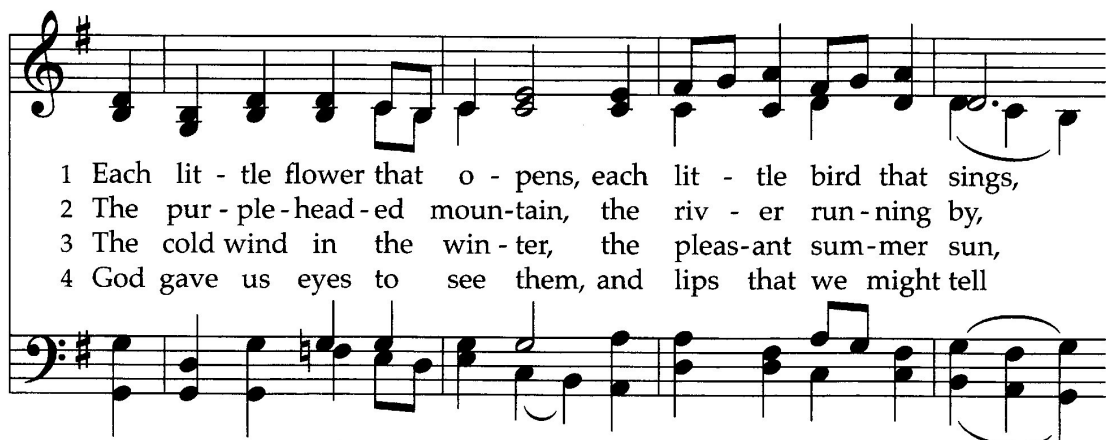
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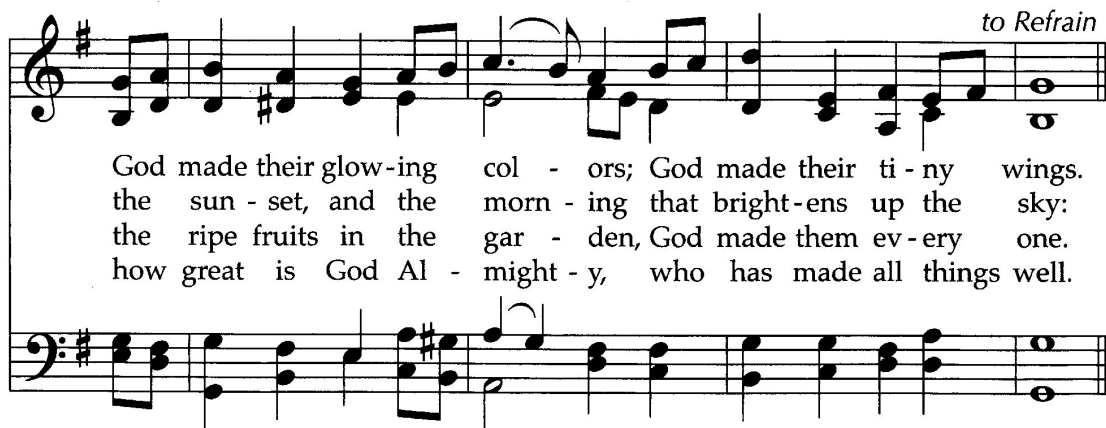
All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all. *Fine*



1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple-head-ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,
4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell



God made their glow-ing col - ors; God made their ti - ny wings.
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky:
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well. *to Refrain*

One of a series of hymns the author wrote for children on the Apostles' Creed, this text (originally in seven stanzas) expands "Maker of heaven and earth." The first stanza became the refrain when the text was later set to a popular tune from the age of King Charles II.

TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt.


MUSIC: English melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915; harm. *The Hymnbook*, 1955
Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

CCLI #689547

ROYAL OAK
7.6.7.6 with refrain


IN THE BULB THERE IS A FLOWER

Capo 3: (D) F (Em) Gm



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) C7 (D) F



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
 F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

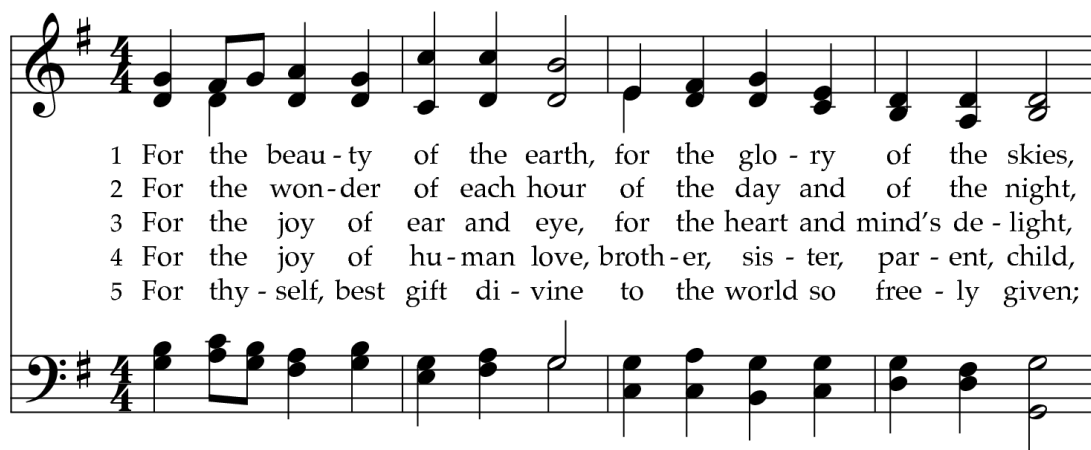
(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
 Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F



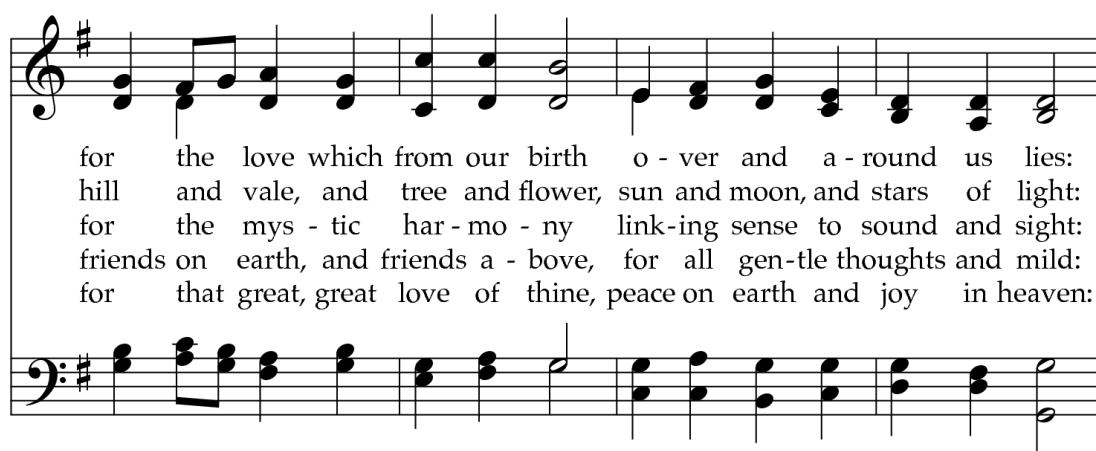
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."
 Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH (*vs. 1, 2, 5*)



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.