

Sunday, 19 April 2026 – Third Sunday of Easter

Today is the third Sunday of the season of Easter. The season of Easter lasts seven weeks from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday on May 24.

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/christian-year/season-easter>

Processional Hymn

The text of *For the Beauty of the Earth* was written by hymnist and poet Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917). He was influenced by the beauty of the countryside around him when he wrote this text at the age of 29 in 1864. The hymn tune DIX was composed by Conrad Kocher (1786–1872) and then adapted and shortened by William H. Monk (1823–1889). The revised tune was composed to accompany the hymn text *As with Gladness Men of Old*, written by William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898).

Sermon Hymn

Ola Irene “Cricket” Harrison (b. 1955) is an ordained Disciples of Christ Minister and taught worship and church music at Lexington Theological Seminary. *Restless Weaver* “paints a vivid picture of Heavenly Mother as She not only weaves the cosmic tapestry, but invites us to join Her in that sacred endeavor working towards Her eschatological vision of the eventual renewal of creation.”

Offertory Anthem

Dolly Parton (b. 1946) wrote the words and music to *Light of a Clear Blue Morning* and recorded it in 1977. The song came out of the pain of her breakup with longtime musical partner Porter Wagoner. Composer and conductor Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962) arranged the song for his chamber chorus, *Conspirare*, in 2010.

Recessional Hymn

The tune LLANFAIR was composed by Robert Williams (1782–1818) and harmonized by David Evans (1874–1948). The tune name (pronounced *blan-vire*) means “St. Mary’s Llan.” (The root Llan- in Welsh place names indicates a Christian settlement.) Because this name occurs so frequently, it usually has a modifier to distinguish it from others. This tune name probably refers to Llanfairynghornwy in northwest Anglesey, near where Williams lived.

Postlude

Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739) was a Venetian composer and teacher. *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* describes his music as “characterized by imagination and a fine technique and includes both counterpoint and progressive, galant features.”