



*church of reconciliation*

**Order of Service  
April 18, 2021**

**“This Fragile Earth, Our Island Home”**



## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### PRELUDE

### INVITATION TO CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

### THE OPENING HYMN

**Sing A New Song**

### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

***People:* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Unbounded Creator, your goodness is deeper than the oceans and higher than the mountains; you breathe life into our small planet, which shares a vastness of space beyond our understanding. Because of your Divine Love, this fragile Earth, our island home, and all the mysteries of the universe exist. Grant us the humility to see our place in the whole of Creation, and to know how precious is our Planet Earth, deserving of our whole-hearted stewardship. We ask this in the name of the Risen Christ, who reconciles and renews all Creation. **Amen.**

### THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

**Genesis 1-2:3**

*Reader:* A Meditation on the Genesis story of Creation.

***Read by Judith Anthony***

*“And God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.”* Light is at the very heart of life: within the brilliance of the morning sun, in the whiteness of the night moon.

***THE PEOPLE’S RESPONSE:* Light manifests in all that grows and in the beating heart of every living creature.**

*READER:* “*And God said, ‘Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.’*” This creative energy is the wildness of God, making the wild winds to sweep over the face of the waters.

***RESPONSE:* The Mystery of God is eternally unfolding on earth, in sea and sky.**

*READER:* “*And God said, ‘Let the waters under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so.*” God uttered creation forth from the heart of the Universe. From the seas emerged our island home that God called Earth. “*And God saw that it was good.*”

**RESPONSE:** Divine Goodness is at the very heart of all that is and we are born of that goodness.

*READER: “And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky . . . to give light upon the earth.’ And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.”* The sun, moon and stars shine out of the darkness of space, expressing the wonder and mystery of God.

**RESPONSE:** The wonder of God is the mystery of our lives, for we are made in God’s image. How wonderful is that!

*READER: “And God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures.’”* Out of the waters of God’s life come the creatures of earth, sea and sky.

**RESPONSE:** Let us celebrate all the creatures of the world; their diversity expresses the ever-expanding creativity of God.

*READER: “God created humankind in God’s image.”* To say that we are made in the image of the Divine is to say that what is deepest in us is God.

**RESPONSE:** At the heart of who we are is the love of God, creativity and the imagination of God.

*READER: “God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because God rested from all the work that God had done.”* The six days of creation reveal the wildness of God’s creative spirit. The seventh day reveals another essential dimension of God: stillness and rest.

**RESPONSE:** Just as night follows day, stillness is woven into the fabric of our own nature, bringing rest and renewal.

**ALL:**

Oh, Great Mystery of Love, may we be ever thankful as we answer your call to play our part in this sacred web of life on Earth, our Island Home.

## **PSALM 98**

**Refrain:** Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done wonderful deeds,  
Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done wonderful deeds.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done wondrous deeds;  
Whose right hand has won the victory for us, God’s holy arm. *Refrain*

The Lord has made salvation known, and justice revealed to all,  
remembering kindness and faithfulness to Israel. *Refrain*

All the ends of earth have seen salvation by our God.  
Joyfully sing out all you lands, break forth in song. *Refrain*

Sing to the Lord with harp and song, with trumpet and with horn.  
Sing in your joy before the king, our Lord. *Refrain*

## **THE EPISTLE**

**1 John 3:1-7**

*Lector:* A reading from John.

*Read by Cindy Fuqua*

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

*Lector:* This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL**

**Luke 24: 36b-48**

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People: Glory to you, O Christ.**

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE SERMON

The Reverend Ben Nelson  
Rector, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, San Marcos, Texas

## AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *by Joan Chittister*

*Celebrant:* Let us affirm our faith together.

*Minister and People:*

**We believe that God creates all things,  
renews all things and celebrates all things.  
We believe Earth is a sanctuary,  
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,  
a home for us to share with all creatures,  
and that every creature is a manifestation of God's love.  
We believe that God became incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth,  
who lived as one of us, healed, reconciled,  
and called us friends.  
He suffered and died on a cross, the ultimate act of love.  
We believe that the Risen Christ fills the whole of Creation.  
We believe the Spirit breathes life into all that is.  
We believe that with the Risen Christ we are rooted and grounded in Eternal Love.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Read by Julie Woody*

*Intercessor:* Almighty God, we see the beauty of this earth and are amazed by all your works. Majestic mountains, graceful birds, magnificent sunsets, endless oceans, strange insects, the great apes, mysterious sea creatures, and our beloved pets are all reminders of the wonders of your creation. For all of this, we give you thanks.

**On this Earth day, O God, stir deep within us a fierce love for all your creation.**

Gracious God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth and in so doing to nurture and protect all people, especially those who suffer most when the planet itself suffers. Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste and over-consume, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care.

**On this Earth day, O God, enliven in us a new energy to partner with you in caring for your creation.**

Creator God, your precious Earth, the very foundation of life and wellbeing, is in desperate trouble. As people of faith, we are deeply disturbed by this and promise to do our part to protect and heal the planet. Empower us also to understand and bring to bear the power of collective awareness and action for positive social change. Help us to hold accountable those who are most accountable.

**On this Earth Day, O God, give us the courage, passion, and wisdom we need to confront climate change and fight for environmental justice.**

Powerful God, be with and work through our President, Joe, and all the leaders of this country and all nations. Guide them, challenge them, equip them and inspire them to do what is right and just.

**On this Earth Day, O God, help us to choose and support leaders who will act always in the best interests of the planet.**

Faithful God, bless and embolden our Bishops David and Rayford, our priests Josh and Judy, our Vestry, and all ministers of our church and diocese. Help them to be effective and passionate leaders on environmental issues especially climate change. Give them a heart for your creation and a sense of urgency to act. Help them not to be afraid.

**On this Earth Day, O God, strengthen those whom you have called to lead with integrity and fearless commitment.**

Compassionate God, ease the burdens of all who suffer this day in mind, body, and spirit. From our parish family, we pray especially for We invite your prayers this week for Jan, Kimberly, Ron, Reese, John, Audie, Stella, Betty, Renee, Bud, Brian, Randy, Laureen, Larry, and Jeannine.

And also, on this Earth Day, we pray for our planet's most endangered species, including the Black Rhino, the Cross River Gorilla, the Leatherback Sea Turtle, the Tooth-billed pigeon, the Amur leopard, the North Atlantic Right Whale, the Giant Panda, the Whooping Crane, and many others.

**On this Earth Day, O God, be with all your creatures and help us to live in harmony with one another.**

Gentle God, welcome with open arms those who have passed into the fullness of your spirit, especially Georges His, and comfort those who grieve. We pray also on this Earth Day for those species that went extinct in 2020 -- the Splendid Poison frog, the Jalpa False Brook Salamander, the Simeulue Hill Myna, the Lost Shark, the Smooth Handfish, the Chiriqui Harlequin Frog, the Spined Dwarf Mantis, the Bonin Pipistrelle Bat, and the Lord Howe Long Eared Bat.

**Creator God, on this Earth Day we commit ourselves to protect and cherish our planet Earth, and every living thing that resides here. As we seek to live out that commitment, draw us together as Reconcilers to discern what our call as a community might be. Give us a spirit of creativity and boldness, grounded in our deep love for your creation. Help us to make a difference. We pray it is not too late. Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION

*(Inspired by God's Good Earth, Praise and Prayer for Creation, compiled and edited by Anne and Jeffery Rowthorn)*

**We confess to you, God of Divine Empathy, as creatures privileged to live in companionship with your creation, that we have abused your gift through arrogance, ignorance, and greed. We confess risking permanent damage to your beloved creation, this fragile Earth, our island home; we confess impoverishing creation's ability to thrive. We confess that we are often unaware of how deeply we have hurt your good Earth and its marvelous gifts. For our wrongs, we ask forgiveness. For our blindness, we ask for insight. May we increasingly love your creation and so increasingly come to love you. AMEN.**

## WORDS OF ABSOLUTION AND ASSURANCE:

*Celebrant:* May you hear today the song of God's grace unfolding, the music of the world becoming healthy and whole, the beating of Christ's own heart in, and with, and under all creation. **Amen.**

*(Sam Hamilton-Poore, from God's Good Earth, Praise and Prayer for Creation.)*

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People*              And also with you.**

*Celebrant*      Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

### Happy birthday to:

Ed Reischling	4/18
Mary Ruth Terry	4/18
Kathryn Daniels	4/22
Terence Touhey	4/24

### Milestones

Garnet and John Szurek will celebrate 50 years of marriage on April 22, 2021.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*Celebrant:* Walk in Love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, a fragrant offering of love and life to God.

### THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

**Spirit Blowing Through Creation**

## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And also with you.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	<b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b>

*Celebrant:* God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.



On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray a meditation on the Lord's Prayer.

#### **A MEDITATION ON THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*from the New Zealand Prayer Book*

**ALL:**

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*The people respond:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## THE INVITATION

Come, for all things are now ready.

Come to the table with all your kin  
and share with all in need

the gift of healing for those in pain,  
the gift of forgiveness for those in sin,  
the gift of assurance for those in doubt,  
and the gift of hope for those in tears.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

**Song At The Center**

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant:* Now may the power of Christ's body and blood transform our hearts, our minds,  
and our bodies so that we may become like the One we receive: Healer,  
Reconciler, Peace Maker. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

*People:* **We thank you, Christ, for this holy banquet, shared in communion with you  
and each other, as we recommit ourselves to the good stewardship of this  
fragile Earth, our island home. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

*(A prayer by Diann L. Neu, God's Good Earth, Praise and Prayer for Creation)*

*Celebrant:* With the blessing of our Creator:  
Let us join with the Earth and each other—  
To bring new life to the land,  
to restore the waters,  
to refresh the air,  
to protect the animals,  
to treasure the trees,  
to gaze at the stars,  
to cherish the family human,  
to heal the Earth, and  
to remember the children who will inherit the path  
we walk before them.  
And may the blessing of God: Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier be  
with you this day and always. **Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us now go forth to put our words into action!

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## THE CLOSING HYMN

**For The Beauty of the Earth**