

One Earth, One Sea, One Sky

As the International Space Station circles around the globe, we are ever more aware that we live together on one Earth with one global ocean and one atmosphere. Our Creator God calls us into communion and community with all Creation. Our part of the covenant is to love this small planet we call home and bring harmony in the Earth community. On this Earth Sunday take time to reflect on and give thanks for the gifts of Earth, Sea, and Sky.



West River United Church

Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

and all members of West River United Church

Fourth Sunday after the Easter

April 22, 2018

PRE- SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

ONE: Warmed by the light of Christ, let us welcome one another with signs of peace.

(Please share the peace of Christ with each other.)

♪ 'This Is the Day' – MV 122 *(projected)*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *(in unison)*

ALL: **May the light of this flickering candle illuminate our way as the Spirit illuminates our souls.**

(Light the Christ candle.)

♪ 'Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary' – MV 18 *(projected)*

CALL TO WORSHIP- *please stand, as you are able**

ONE: The One who loves without distinction calls us here.

ALL: **From the highest heavens to the deepest ravine; let all creation praise the Lord.**

ONE: The One who loves us calls us into God's future.

ALL: **From the rising sun to the waning moon, let all creation praise the Lord.**

ONE: The One who loves us calls us still.

ALL: **From the new heaven and new earth, let all creation praise the Lord.**

♪ 'Spirit Open My Heart' – MV 79 *(projected)*

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER * *(in unison)*

ALL: **Gracious God, you urge the flowers to push their way through winter hardened soil, you supply living water so that new life blooms. You bring new hope out of despair, and new life out of death. We give thanks for the gifts of creation and we join with the Earth and with each other for the healing of the Earth and the renewal of all life. Flood us with your live-giving love so that we may be part of your vision of a love and healing for all creation. Together we say the words that Jesus taught us saying,**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name
thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
for thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

ONE: We are called as stewards to care for creation. Let us bring to God our gifts to serve and care for all that God cares for.

PRESENTATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

♪ 'What Can I do' – MV 191(*projected*)

OFFERTORY PRAYER** (*in unison*)

ALL: Gracious God, you entrust us with the stewardship of all you have created. Give us eyes to see your new life that is all around us and the will to devote ourselves to its care. Inspire us to share what you have given us and to recognize the gifts you provide each day. Amen

CHILDREN'S TIME – *Camp Abby Guests*



♪ 'Dance with the Spirit' – MV 156 (*projected*)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION * (*in unison*)

ALL: Ever patient God, your mercy is abundant and your love endless. Trusting in your loving kindness, we confess that while we were created to love, too often we have not shown it; while we have been called to be compassionate, too often we are cold and full of judgment; while we have been called to follow, too often we are distracted by our own desires and plans. Forgive us for the ways we fall short and renew a right spirit within us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *

ONE: The One who made heaven and earth dwells among us to bring us love and life. Let us praise the Lord our God, for the One who loves us is faithful. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

ACTS 4:5-12 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem,
⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"
⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

JOHN 10:11-18 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

HYMN VU 684 'Make Me A Channel' (*projected*)

♪ **'Don't Be Afraid'** – MV 90 (*projected*)

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN VU 559 'Come, O Fount of Every Blessing' (*projected*)

BENEDICTION** *

ONE: May God's radiant face shine upon you.

May Jesus continue to walk with you.

May the love of the Holy Spirit fill you.

Today and forevermore. Amen.

♪ **'Go, Make a Difference'** MV 209 **chorus vs 3 chorus** (*projected*)

* *Worship Annual 2017.* ** *Presbyterian Church of Canada, April 15, 18.,* ****The United Church of Canada. Peace for Earth. 2011.*

One Earth

- Offer a prayer of gratitude and thanksgiving for the precious gift of Earth—and your small part of it.
- Apologize for any thoughtlessness that has scarred its surface.
- Act to restore some damaged space: remove garbage, plant something, change some harmful behaviour—of yours or of your community's.

One Sea

- Reflect on the gift of the global ocean, teeming with life but filled with pollution and turning more acidic every day.
- Research what happens with the water you use daily as it finds its way through the lakes and rivers into the sea.
- Ask how you can help to clean up the waters and prevent further harm to this source of life.
- Write a message to the ocean—but don't put it in a bottle!

One Sky

- Breathe deeply and feel your lungs fill up. Exhale a prayer of thanksgiving for the sustaining gift of air.
- Reflect on the gases that make up the atmosphere and how important it is that they stay in balance. Ask yourself and your church how you can reduce the greenhouse gases that we emit by using energy from fossil fuels for heat, light, and transportation. Take action!
- Join with others in your community to urge politicians to make choices that curb global warming.

We are all one and interconnected with one Earth, one Sea, one Sky—God's wondrous gifts for life.

Prayer

Creating God, we thank you for our home of Earth, Sea, and Sky. It is a home that is majestic and humble, vast and small, vibrant—and ailing. Help us join with all of Creation in caring for Earth, Sea, and Sky. Amen.

Song

“Called by Earth and Sky” (*More Voices* 135)