



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 30, 2023

10:00 am

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

*please stand as you are able, in body or spirit

Bold indicates congregational response.

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

*In the beginning before time, before people, before the world began, **God was.***

*Here and now, among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven, **God is.***

*In the future, when we have turned to dust and all we know has found its fulfilment, **God will be.***

Not denying the world but delighting in it, not understanding the world, but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

God was, God is, God will be.

**1 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.**

**2 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)**

**3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)**

**4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)**

**5 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)**

PRAYER OF PRAISE*

CONFESSION OF SIN

For our unwillingness to feel the suffering of others, and our readiness to live comfortably with injustice.

Forgive us, O God.

For our self-righteousness that denies guilt, and our self-interest that strangles compassion. **Forgive us, O God.**

For our abuse of this planet and our exploitation of its resources. **Forgive us, O God.**

For our failings in community and our reticence to become involved. **Forgive us, O God.**

For the times we were too eager to be better than others, when we were too rushed to care, when we were too tired to bother, when we were too preoccupied to listen, when we were too quick to act out of motives other than love.

Forgive us, O God. May God forgive us, Christ renew us, and the Spirit enable us to grow in love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON / PASSING OF THE PEACE*

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

[You are invited to exchange signs of peace with one another.]

RESPONSE TO PARDON*

240, chorus

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name**

THE WORD WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

OLD TESTAMENT – Psalm 23

Sue Bentley

OFFERING OF MUSIC

Adult Choir

“A Shepherd’s Psalm”

GOSPEL* – John 10:1-10

SERMON

“Being a Good Shepherd”

Linda Dickerson

SAYING WHAT WE BELIEVE* *(from A Declaration of Faith)*

We hold the earth in trust for future generations of living things.

The Lord forbids us to plunder, foul, and destroy the earth.

The Lord expects us to produce, to consume, to reproduce in ways that make earth’s goodness available to all people, and reflect God’s love for all creatures.

The Lord bids us use our technical skills for beauty, order, health, and peace.

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven...	<i>You are also at home in the air, the soil, the forests and the oceans,</i>
Hallowed be Your name...	<i>by the care we take of your creation,</i>
Your kingdom come...	<i>all that you see is good,</i>
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...	<i>Your will to till and care,</i>
Give us this day our daily bread...	<i>that all may have sufficient to live life in fullness,</i>

Forgive us our debts...	<i>our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations,</i>
As we forgive our debtors...	<i>by reconciliation with justice and peace,</i>
Lead us not into temptation...	<i>the temptation to equate dominion with exploitation,</i>
And deliver us from evil...	<i>the evil of destroying your gift of creation,</i>
For Yours is the Kingdom...	<i>Yours Lord, not ours</i>
The Power and the Glory...	<i>in the cross and the resurrection,</i>
For ever.	<i>You are the beginning and you are the end. And so be it.</i>
Amen.	

HYMN*

"This is My Father's World"

370

**1 This is my Father's world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
his hand the wonders wrought.**

**2 This is my Father's world.
O, let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.**

**This is my Father's world.
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
and earth and heaven be one.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

CHORAL RESPONSE* 742

Congregation and Choir

**We will walk with God, my brothers;
we will walk with God.
We will walk with God, my sisters;
we will walk with God.
We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.
We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.**

POSTLUDE (Please be seated during the Postlude)

The flowers this morning are given by Ann Marie Conner
in memory of her father, James W. Little, on his birthday.

Please be in prayer for:

Revathi	Herbert Payne	Matthew Harper
Balakrishnan		
Ron Pearson	Susan Dickerson	Larry & Karen Rogers
Norma Williams	Gavin Adams	Pat Robinson
Brenda Payne	Karen McCollum	Olyvia Harter
Charles Allen	Hugh & Candy Springer	Corrie Lawson
Lou Brown	Edd Stoops	Justin Michael
Cathy Cunningham	Marty Rodgers	Kristin Adams
David Meincke	Nora Greife	

Musicians: Marya Katz, Charles Bostian, Ann Marie Conner,
Jack Webster, Pat Fullen, Adult Choir (varies)
Audio/Video Technicians – Marshall Chaney, Bruce Harper,
Alex Chaney

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

Senator Gaylord Nelson, the junior senator from Wisconsin, had long been concerned about the deteriorating environment in the United States. Then in January 1969, he and many others witnessed the ravages of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, Senator Nelson wanted to infuse the energy of student anti-war protests with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution. Senator Nelson announced the idea for a teach-in on college campuses to the national media, and persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair. They recruited Denis Hayes, a young activist, to organize the campus teach-ins and they chose April 22, a weekday falling between Spring Break and Final Exams, to maximize the greatest student participation.

Recognizing its potential to inspire all Americans, Hayes built a national staff of 85 to promote events across the land and the effort soon broadened to include a wide range of organizations, faith groups, and others. They changed the name to Earth Day, which immediately sparked national media attention, and caught on across the country. Earth Day inspired 20 million Americans — at the time, 10% of the total population of the United States — to take to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate against the impacts of 150 years of industrial development which had left a growing legacy of serious human health impacts. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment and there were massive coast-to-coast rallies in cities, towns, and communities.

Today, Earth Day is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world, marked by more than a billion people every year as a day of action to change human behavior and create global, national and local policy changes. Now, the fight for a clean environment continues with increasing urgency, as the ravages of climate change become more and more apparent every day.

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Linda Dickerson.....	Teaching Elder / Pastor
Martha H. McMahan.....	Secretary
Marya Katz.....	Director, Adult Choir
Pat Fullen.....	Organist
Susan Heinze.....	Nursery Supervisor
Clark Gaylord.....	Treasurer
Jack Webster.....	Associate Treasurer
Sandi Webster.....	Chair, Education Committee
Ann Marie Conner.....	Theology, Worship & Music Committee
Joe Hunnings.....	Finance & Facilities Committee
Mary Lough, Jane Jones.....	Co-Chairs, Mission Committee
Heidi Harper.....	Chair, Fellowship Committee
Bruce Harper.....	Chair, Human Resources Committee
Bruce Harper.....	Webmaster

THE SESSION

Sue Bentley, clerk

Class of 2023

Clark Gaylord
Dwayne Kittle

Class of 2024

Ann Marie Conner
Bruce Harper
Heidi Harper

Class of 2025

Sue Bentley
Betsy Stinson
Sandi Webster

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2023

Sophia Frimpong

Class of 2024

Lisa Garcia
Sandy Gaylord
Kay Hunnings,
mod.

Class of 2025

Frieda Bostian
Traci McCoy
Lucian Robinson

Memorials Board: Charles Bostian (ch.), Caryl Gray, Nedra Underwood

We welcome each person who is visiting with our congregation this morning and extend a special invitation for you to make Northside church your home. Members and visitors, please use prayer request station to alert the church to pastoral needs or concerns.

NORTHSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Web Site: <http://www.northsidebburg.org>

Like Us on Facebook: Northside Presbyterian Church in Blacksburg, VA

Church Office Hours

9:00 AM – Noon (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday)

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (Wednesday)