



## **THE GREAT FIFTY DAYS**

### ***FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – EARTH DAY***

*April 21, 2024*

*10:00 am*

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\*please rise as you are able, in body or spirit.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*Morning has broken!*

**We gather to greet the new day by praising God.**

*God created us to be in relationship with God, each other, and the earth.*

**Let us honor those relationships today and every day.**

## 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\*

## RESPONSE TO PARDON, #251, chorus

**Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.  
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!**

## A TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

OLD TESTAMENT – Psalm 23

Karen Arnold

NEW TESTAMENT – 1 John 3:16-24

Karen Arnold

OFFERING OF MUSIC “*Shepherd’s Psalm*”

Adult Choir

GOSPEL\* - John 10:11-18

SERMON

“*Laying Down Our Life*” Linda Dickerson

SAYING WHAT WE BELIEVE\*

*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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven...**

*You are also at home in the air, the soil, the forests and the oceans,*

**Hallowed be Your name...**

*by the care we take of your creation,*

**Your kingdom come...**

*all that you see is good,*

**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...**

*Your will to till and care,*

**Forgive us our debts...**

*our greed, our exploitation, our*

*lack of concern for other species  
and for future generations,*

**As we forgive our  
debtors...** *by reconciliation with justice and  
peace,*

**Lead us not into  
temptation...** *the temptation to equate dominion  
with exploitation,*

**And deliver us from  
evil...** *the evil of destroying your gift of  
creation,*

**For Yours is the  
Kingdom...** *Yours Lord, not ours*

**The Power and the  
Glory...** *in the cross and the resurrection,*

**For ever.** *You are the beginning and you are  
the end. And so be it.*

**Amen.**

**HYMN\***                      *“God of the Sparrow”*                      22

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION\***

**CHORAL RESPONSE,\*** 243 *(sing Twice)*                      *Congregation and Choir*

**Be not afraid; sing out for joy!  
Christ is risen, alleluia!  
Be not afraid; sing out for joy!  
Christ is risen, alleluia!**

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**FELLOWSHIP TIME – Everyone is invited!**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES**

*To those who are weary and need rest;  
To all who are lonely and need friends;  
To all who mourn and need comfort;  
To all who pray, and to all who do not, but ought;  
To all who sin and need a Savior,  
And to whosoever comes –  
The Church opens wide its doors, and says,  
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Welcome."*