



April 27, 2025 – Livestream
Earth Day Sunday

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darren Cushman Wood

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

All Creatures of Our God and King

arr. R. G. te Velde

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O God, who called all life into being,

People: the earth, sea, and sky are yours.

Leader: Your presence is all around us,

People: every atom is full of your energy.

Leader: Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth,

People: with her we yearn for justice to be done,

Leader: For creation to be freed from bondage.

People: For the hungry to be fed,

Leader: For captives to be released,

All: For your kingdom of peace to come on earth.

*OPENING HYMN #89

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;

hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

***All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.***

***Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.***

***Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!***

***Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.***

***Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.***

***Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.***

OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM

You Make the Sun to Rise

C. Courtney

You make the sun to rise with heavenly glory; You fill the deep with life no eye has seen;
You speak, and trees applaud, and stars assemble to hear Your mystery spoken once again.
We do not hear the praise creation offers when we believe that we alone can sing.

How will we sing when words have lost all meaning? How can we serve those needs we will not see?
How can our minds contain so great a yearning unless Your Spirit burns in us anew?
With You, we'll soar on wings reserved for eagles, with You we'll come to shores beyond our sight.

When we alone will name the wrong before us, but no one else will make our cause their own;
when, in defeat, we flee into the desert, Lord, set a table for our weary souls.
Come, take and eat, all you who faint with hunger, then rise and seek your purpose once again.

As once Your Word flew out across the waters, so, still it broods above our groaning land,
and sings a song of justice, peace and mercy, inviting all to join its healing song;
we also sing and worlds come into being; may our voice rise in harmony with You.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Donna Moose

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:26-31

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹ God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAYER #92

For the Beauty of the Earth

***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.

***For the beauty 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]***

***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]***

***For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild; [Refrain]
For thy church, that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love; [Refrain]***

***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 CONFESSION

Darren Cushman Wood

Leader: Creator of all, you formed the earth in beauty and abundance.

People: Yet we have marred your creation through greed, neglect, and misuse.

Leader: You called us to till and keep the garden of the world.

People: But we have polluted air, water, and land, chasing convenience over care.

Leader: You made every creature with purpose and balance.

People: Yet we have driven species to extinction and disrupted ecosystems.

Leader: You give us daily bread from the bounty of the earth.

People: Still we waste, hoard, and ignore the needs of others.

Leader: You reveal yourself in the rhythms of nature and the changing seasons.

People: But we have chosen short-term gain over long-term responsibility.

Leader: Forgive us, Lord, for the harm we have done and the good we have failed to do.

People: Renew our hearts, that we may walk more gently upon the earth.

All: God of mercy, restore your creation and teach us to live as your faithful stewards.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

MUSICAL RESPONSE #162

Alleluia, Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

All Things Bright and Beautiful

J. Rutter

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings. *Refrain*

The purple headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset and the morning, that brightens up the sky;
the cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. *Refrain*

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who had made all things well. *Refrain*

*DOXOLOGY #95

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the

creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A New Heaven and Earth

Jill Moffett

*LITANY OF ADORATION AND DEDICATION

Leader: Creator God, you have made the heavens and the earth, the seas and all that is in them.

People: We praise you for the beauty of the world around us.

Leader: You entrusted the care of the earth to us—its mountains, rivers, forests, and creatures.

People: Forgive us for the ways we have neglected and harmed your creation.

Leader: For the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the soil that sustains life,

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For the warning signs of a changing climate and ecosystems in distress,

People: Give us ears to hear and hearts to respond with urgency.

Leader: Empower us to be wise stewards—planting, preserving, protecting, and restoring.

People: Help us to live in harmony with creation and with one another.

Leader: For those most affected by environmental damage—
the poor, the vulnerable, and future generations,

People: May we act with justice, compassion, and courage.

Leader: Guide our leaders, our communities, and our hearts.

People: That we may walk gently upon the earth and leave it better for those to come.

All: God of all creation, renew the face of the earth, and renew us with your Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #150

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

***God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space,
we your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you.
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.***

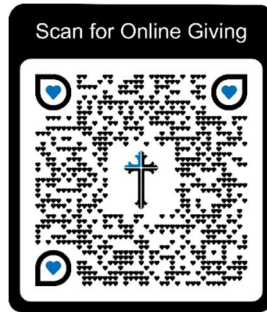
***Proudly rise our modern cities, stately buildings, row on row;
yet their windows, blank, unfeeling, stare on canyoned streets below,
where the lonely drift unnoticed in the city's ebb and flow,
lost to purpose and to meaning, scarcely caring where they go.***

***We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,
facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.***

***As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun.
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.***

*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God and in loving memory of the Rev. Albert L. Galloway and in celebration of the beauty of God's creation by the Galloway family.



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Today's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood
Senior Pastor
 Jill Moffett
Pastor of Community Formation
 John Hague, James Horton
 & Allen McCormack
Audio Visual
 Mark Gilgallon
Music Director
 Heather Hinton
Organist

COMING UP @ NORTH

WORSHIP

- * Youth Sunday, Sunday, May 4, 8:30 and 11 a.m.
- * "To the Trinity and Beyond" Mother's Day Musical, Sunday, May 11, 9:45 a.m.
- * "A Sunday with Handel: The Utrecht Jubilate," Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m.

LEARN

- * Worship Design at North, Sunday, May 4, 5 p.m.
- * "1946" Film Forum, Tuesday, May 13, 5:30 p.m.
- * Trauma and Spirituality Workshop, Sunday, May 18, 5:30-8 p.m.

SERVE

- * Volunteers needed for MLK Center Block Party, Saturday, May 17, 3:30-6 p.m.