

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR EARTH SABBATH

April 22, 2018

10:30 a.m.

* All who are able may stand

Congregation reads aloud the **bold** print

THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GATHERS

(Congregation gathers at the end of the sidewalk.)

BLESSING OF THE WATER

GATHERING SONG

Down to the River to Pray

Appalachian folk song

(All sing as we process inside.)

**As I went down to the river to pray
Studyin' about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way!**

**Oh, sinners, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down.
Oh, sinners, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.**

WELCOME

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Creating Spirit, One tiny bit of water rests on the palm of my hand.

We bring it to you and with it we bring the whole ocean.

This tiny drop has the power to ease the burning thirst of humanity;

When spread on the earth, to give life to the seed and the future harvest;

When poured on the fire to quench the blaze.

A tiny drop of water can cleanse all of our misjudgments when blessed by your forgiveness.

O Redeemer, more than this, this tiny drop of water passed over our heads is the symbol of our birth in You.

~ Ishpriya R.S.C.J. (*Earth Prayers*)

*HYMN NO. 17

Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth.

Creator God, we praise you with joy for the world you blessed and made good.

Jesus, you taught us that the smallest bird, the smallest flower matters to God.

Redeemer God, as children made in your image, teach us to seek your kingdom in every way.

Holy Spirit, you call us to enjoy the fullness of life. Protect us from the anxieties of our daily preoccupations. Remind us that all those we hold in our own prayers are already held in your love.

Sustainer God, the whole world lives and moves and has its being in you.

Does not Wisdom call out rejoicing at the crossroads with words more precious than silver?

Let us rejoice in your marvelous creation. Teach us stewardship and how to conform our lives to yours.

Help us bury every obstacle so that we will rise up, like green wheat, to new life in you.

A Time of Silence

(Please take this time in silence to offer your own prayers of confession—confessing your need for God and naming those barriers that keep you from knowing life as God’s beloved child.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

The grace of God is ours for the taking!

Put off the sackcloth and ashes of despair, and dance in the light of God’s love.

In the name of Christ, we are forgiven!

Alleluia, Amen!

*RESPONSE (all sing)

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

NO. 232, v. 2

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

*GREETING OF PEACE

Since God has made peace with us, let us make peace with each other.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you. (We greet each other: “The peace of Christ be with you.”)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 1:1-3

p. 1

"In the beginning..." (Creation)

F. J. Haydn

Chancel Choir

In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.
And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.
And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
And God said, let there be light: and there was light.

John 7:37-38

p. 869

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

Rivers of Living Water

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

LITURGICAL DANCE/ANTHEM

The Waters of Life

James Biery

A.T. Moffett – dancer, Chancel Choir

The Father's voice calls us above the waters

The glory of the Son shines on us

The love of the spirit fills us with life

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/PRAYERS FOR THE EARTH

To bring new life to the land

To restore the waters

To refresh the air

We join with the earth and with each other.

To renew the forests

To care for the plants

To protect the creatures

We join with the earth and with each other.

To celebrate the seas

To rejoice in the sunlight

To sing the song of the stars

We join with the earth and with each other.

(cont'd)

To recall our destiny

To renew our spirits

To reinvigorate our bodies

We join with the earth and with each other.

To recreate the human community

To heal all people

To promote justice and peace

To remember our children

We join with the earth and with each other.

We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery: for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life. (silence)

Let us pray together The Prayer of Jesus:

Holy One, Father and Mother of all, you are the one who holds and guides the cosmos.

May your Name be hallowed in our words and lives.

May your reign of peace and well-being come among us.

May your intentions and desires come to pass on earth as it is in the highest heavens.

May there be bread sufficient for all this day.

Free us from our misdeeds and failings even as we respond in compassion to one another.

Do not lead us into temptation or trial but deliver us from the power of evil.

For you reign in the power and glory of life, light, and love forever. Amen

~ paraphrase by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Cuthbertson - 2007

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

For the Beauty of the Earth

J. Rutter

Chancel Choir

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of 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:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

(cont'd)

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heav'n.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

*DOXOLOGY (all sing)

All Things Bright and Beautiful

NO. 20, v. 2

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

**The purple-headed mountain, the river running by.
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the skies: (*Refrain*)**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Creator God, your presence is as the wind, the breath and sustainer of life.
We are grateful for being a part of your beautiful creation: rugged mountains, rolling
plains, and uncultivated deserts. We thank you for the birds of the air, animals, and
fish of the sea. For purity of water and air and healing medicines that remind us of
the need for holy virtue in life, physical and spiritual. In your holy mystery, you have
revealed that we are God's children, a wonderful mosaic of humanity with different
cultures and heritages. We have a work yet to do, to work for truth and equity. We
pray that we might always be found faithful, reflecting your love. Cause light to
overcome the darkness of the world through your Son Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.**

~ Cecil Corbett (Native American Presbyterian)

*HYMN NO. 19

God of Great and God of Small

v. 1 – all

v. 2 – high voices

v. 3 – low voices

v. 4 – all

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Be a gardener. Dig a ditch, toil and sweat,
And turn the earth upside down
And seek the deepness
And water the plants in time.

(cont'd)

Continue this labor
And make sweet floods to run
And noble and abundant fruits to spring.
Take this food and drink
And carry it to God
As your true worship.

~ Julian of Norwich

POSTLUDE

Rustle of Spring, Op. 32, No. 3

Christian Sinding

Welcome visitors! We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please record your name, address, and phone number/email on one of the Connection Cards in the pew and introduce yourself to the pastor as you leave. All are invited to join us for light refreshments and fellowship following the service in the back of the Sanctuary.

Whether you are a visitor, occasional attendee, or current/former/prospective member, **you can stay connected to the people, plans, and possibilities of Concord by subscribing to our weekly *Concord Connects* e-newsletter.** Just write a note on a Connection Card, along with your name and email address, and place it in the offering.

Large-print bulletins, hymnals, and Bibles are available for use during the worship service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Assisting in the service of worship are:

Liturgist: Carol Haas

Deacon-in-Charge: Al Lund

Ushers: Aggie & Paul Pringle, Liz Rowe

The flowers today are given by Carol and Carolou Schlegel to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lou Schlegel.

Weekly Prayer List (follows church directory):

Jan & Jim Moore

Debra & Robert Norris

Laura Nichols

Heather & Curt Oberholtzer, Bailey & Riley

Concord now accepts credit card donations. Scanning this QR code with your smart phone camera or app will connect you to a Concord website page. Click on the blue "Donate Now" button to enter a secure portal where you can enter donation amount and credit card information. You will receive an email acknowledging the donation.



Scan with RedLaser

Sunday School & Family Activities

CONCORD VBS

2018

July 23-27

9am-12pm

**All things bright and
beautiful...**



**The Lord God made them
ALL!**

Middle School Conference Meeting & Youth Group Planning – Sun., April 29, 5:00-7:00pm: Middle schoolers and parents will meet from 5-5:30pm to talk about details for our upcoming trip to Massanetta Springs. The rest of the youth group will join us at 5:30pm to brainstorm ideas for youth group for the summer and next year! Please bring your ideas to share for fellowship activities, service projects, mission trips, and fundraisers. Parents are welcome to join us for this part of our gathering as well.

Adult Class

An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor – Sun., April 22-May 13, 9:30-10:20am, Jessie's Room: Sister BJ Brown will lead our discussion on this book in which the author shares how she learned to encounter God far beyond the walls of the church. Copies have been ordered for the class – contact Marj Johnson if you would like one.

Mission Outreach

Friendship House Sunday Breakfast – May 12-13: Concord will be preparing breakfast at Sts. Andrew & Matthew on **Sat., May 12 (4:00-5:00pm)** and serving the meal on **Sun., May 13 (7:00-8:30am)**. Each Sunday, thanks to volunteers from local churches, Friendship House provides a nourishing breakfast to 90-140 homeless men, women, and children. If you would like to be a part of this outreach, please contact Judy Hayes at 545-2188 or judyfhayes@gmail.com.

Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community – June 9, Frawley Stadium: This walk will benefit 23 health and human services organizations, including **Friendship House**. John Barineau is organizing a team from Concord to participate in the walk and support FH. To sign up to be a walker, make a donation, or learn more about the event, contact John at barinejm@yahoo.com.

New York City Bus Trip
Wed., May 16 ~ 7:15am-6:00pm
Tickets ~ \$60
Contact the Church Office.

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 22

Earth Sabbath

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman preaching

10:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary

10:50 am Sunday School for Children & Youth

Monday, April 23

9:00 am Diaspora Prayer Group

6:30 pm Mission Initiative – Jessie’s Room

Wednesday, April 25

9:30 am Mug & Muffin Bible Study – Sanctuary Lounge

7:30 pm Session – Jessie’s Room

Thursday, April 26

11:30 am Thaddeus Arc Men’s Bible Study – Library

7:00 pm Mission Outreach Subcommittee – Jessie’s Room

7:30 pm Chancel Choir – Chapel

Friday, April 27

5:30 pm Epiphany House Dinner

Sunday, April 29

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman preaching

9:30 am Adult CE – Jessie’s Room

9:45 am Concord Book Club – Sanctuary Lounge

10:00 am Youth Choir and Bells – F204

10:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary

10:50 am Sunday School for Children & Youth

5:00 pm Youth Group (Planning)

Monday, April 30

9:00 am Diaspora Prayer Group

6:30 pm Mission Initiative – F203

CONCORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1800 FAIRFAX BOULEVARD

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19803

(302) 654-9652

www.concordpc.org info@concordpc.org

The Rev. Elizabeth Lyman 654-9557 elizabeth.lyman@concordpc.org

The Rev. Kathie S. Pownall, Pastoral Care 373-7127 kspownallkathie@aol.com

Christina Pressley, Director of Children’s & Youth Ministries christina.pressley@concordpc.org

Matthew Pressley, Minister of Music matthew.pressley@concordpc.org

Lori Bigalow, Administrator – Concord Preschool and Childcare 654-9629 loripcs@concordpc.org