

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 19, 2026

Bonnie Jacque, Pastor

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

TIME OF SHARING

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

SUNG INTROIT Come and Fill Our Hearts **Screen**

Come and fill our hearts with your peace

You alone, O God, are holy

Come and fill our hearts with your peace

Alleluia! (repeat x 1)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Based on Ps 96, 104, 148) **Screen**

One: Praise the Lord!

ALL: I WILL SING TO THE LORD AS LONG AS I LIVE; I WILL SING PRAISE TO MY GOD WHILE I HAVE BEING.

One: Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise the Lord, sun and moon, and all you shining stars!

MANY: I WILL SING TO THE LORD AS LONG AS I LIVE; I WILL SING PRAISE TO MY GOD WHILE I HAVE BEING.

One: Praise the Lord from the earth, Praise the Lord you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, and stormy wind. - Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

MANY: I WILL SING TO THE LORD AS LONG AS I LIVE; I WILL SING PRAISE TO MY GOD WHILE I HAVE BEING.

One: Let heaven celebrate! Let the earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything in it roar! Let the countryside and everything in it celebrate! Then all the trees of the forest too will shout out joyfully before the Lord.

MANY: I WILL SING TO THE LORD AS LONG AS I LIVE; I WILL SING PRAISE TO MY GOD WHILE I HAVE BEING.

OPENING PRAYER **Screen**

HOLY GOD, WE COME THIS DAY WITH PRAISE IN OUR HEARTS AND SONGS ON OUR TONGUES. WE JOIN ALL CREATION - FROM THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS TO THE WILD ANIMALS, MOUNTAINS AND TREES - IN PRAISING YOUR HOLY NAME.

HOLY SPIRIT, THROUGH THIS WORSHIP, MOVE IN US AND THROUGH US.

STRENGTHEN OUR CONNECTIONS TO EACH OTHER AND TO THE NATURAL WORLD SO THAT WE RECOGNIZE CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL, AND RIVERS, HILLS, AND TREES AS OUR SIBLINGS.

JESUS, OUR TEACHER, EMBOLDEN US TO BE DOERS OF JUSTICE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH SO THAT ALL PEOPLE AND ALL CREATION MAY KNOW YOUR LOVE AND MERCY. AMEN.

HYMN To You, O God, All Creatures Sing #17 v1-4

CALL TO CONFESSION Screen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Screen

PRECIOUS GOD, WE HUMBLY COME BEFORE YOU TODAY. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ALL CREATION COMES FROM AND IS A REFLECTION OF YOU. LUSH TREES CREATED TO PROVIDE FOOD, SHELTER, AND PROTECTION FOR CREATURES AS YOU INTENDED. THEIR ROOTS BREAK DOWN HARD ROCK TO FORM SOIL AND FILTER POLLUTANTS FROM RUNOFF, WHILE MAINTAINING THE AIR BALANCE THROUGH PHOTOSYNTHESIS. THEY STRETCH THEIR BRANCHES OUT TO YOU IN WORSHIP AND ADORATION.

BY YOUR CREATIVE WILL AND DESIGN, ALL LIFE FORMS TOOK SHAPE OUT OF YOUR HOLY BREATH - EACH FOR ITS PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND YET ALL INDEPENDENT. MAY WE REMEMBER THAT BEFORE WE BECAME DIFFERENT RACES, ETHNICITIES, AND GENDERS, WE WERE COCOONED IN YOUR HOLY CREATIVE INTENT ALONGSIDE THE POSSIBILITY OF ALL CREATION THAT WAS TO COME - ALL OF US FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE, OUR VERY DESIGN AND PURPOSE GLORIFYING YOU.

OUR HEARTS ARE HEAVY WITH GRIEF AT THE HARM WE CAUSE OUR HUMAN AND NONHUMAN KIN. WE ASK YOUR FORGIVENESS. WE PRAY FOR OURSELVES AND ALL PEOPLE TO REPENT AND CHANGE OUR CONSUMERISTIC WAYS. BELOVED CREATOR-GOD, THROUGH YOUR POWER THAT IS AS GENTLE AS A LAMB AND AS CAPABLE AS TO CALL WORLDS INTO BEING, WE ASK THAT YOU SPEAK TO ALL HEARTS TO CHANGE OUR WAYS. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE Screen

SUNG RESPONSE Adapted from #769 Screen

Hear our prayer, O God,
Hear our prayer, O God,
Hear our prayer, O God,
And grant us your peace.

CHOIR Because He Lives

SCRIPTURE Ezekiel 47: 1-12; Acts 10: 34-42a; Luke 24: 13-32

HYMN O God, You Made the Trees Screen

Tune: This is My Father's World

Used with permission

O God, you made the trees! The oak and Douglas fir,
the maple, beech, and sweetgum reach their branches heavenward.
The willow, growing wide — the redwood, tall and strong —
and cedar trees! Yes, all of these sing out creation's song.

You made each living thing to give and to receive.
As roots grow down into the ground, they twist and interweave.
A canopy of green restores and cools the air.
Great branches shade the earth you made, and dance — as if in prayer.

How often we forget the forests and their worth!
We lay cement on places meant to be the lungs of earth.
For profit and for gain, we build and build some more;
We cut down woods in neighborhoods of people who are poor.

O God, you made the trees — the apple and the pine.
You made them all and still you call: "Take care of what is mine!"
May we receive your gift and give ourselves anew
to do our best, as we've been blessed, to care for trees for you.

MEDITATION Trees of Life

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER - New Zealand Book of Prayer

**ETERNAL SPIRIT EARTH-MAKER, PAIN BEARER, LIFE-GIVER,
SOURCE OF ALL THAT IS AND THAT SHALL BE,
FATHER AND MOTHER OF US ALL,
LOVING GOD, IN WHOM IS HEAVEN:**

**THE HALLOWING OF YOUR NAME ECHOS THROUGH THE UNIVERSE;
THE WAY OF YOUR JUSTICE BE FOLLOWED BY THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD;
YOUR HEAVENLY WILL BE DONE BY ALL CREATED BEINGS;
YOUR COMMONWEALTH OF PEACE AND FREEDOM
SUSTAIN OUR HOPE AND COME ON EARTH.**

WITH THE BREAD WE NEED FOR TODAY, FEED US.

**IN THE HURTS WE ABSORB FROM ONE ANOTHER, FORGIVE US. IN TIMES OF
TEMPTATION AND TEST, STRENGTHEN US.
FROM TRIAL TOO GREAT TO ENDURE, SPARE US.
FROM THE GRIP OF ALL THAT IS EVIL, FREE US.
FOR YOU REIGN IN THE GLORY OF THE POWER THAT IS LOVE, NOW AND
FOREVER. AMEN.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING Screen

***DOXOLOGY**