

Sunday, May 3, 2020

EASTER 4A – A Celebration of Earth Day and Holy Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have a special treat this week – this service of worship is centered around the *April* 2013 performance of the *Missa Gaia (Earth Mass)* held at our church. The mass includes a service of Communion. When that part of the service comes, please use your memories and imagination to place yourself in fellowship with one another as the elements are blessed and shared.

We are still collecting **sneakers and socks for Friendship Childrens Center**. We need sizes 8 to 13 for sneaks and socks to fit 3 yrs. to 10 yrs.. These can be dropped off at JCPC and placed in a box that is under the bench near the front door. You can also drop off sneaks and socks at Hamiltons on Goodburlet Rd. Monetary donations can be sent to JCPC labeled Sneakers / Socks. Bless you for your support. The Mission Team

Please feel free to email prayer joys and concerns to Rev. Marie at myhansel@yahoo.com and they will be shared with the congregation as a whole so we may continue to support one another. If you wish to share a prayer concern only with Rev. Marie that request will be honored.

Sarah Stever's father returned to Jesus' everlasting arms on Tuesday evening. He was in a nursing facility but Sarah and Janice were able to see him as he made his journey home. Please keep Sarah in your prayers as she grieves the death of her father and deals with her own poor health. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Karl Delfave has begun treatments for colon cancer. Please include him in your prayers for healing. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

There will be no services of worship held at John Calvin Presbyterian church until further notice. We will keep you informed as additional information is available. Rev. Marie will share worship resources each week and encourages you to take time either alone or with family and friends to consider God's word.

INVOCATION

In the name of God, who creates planets,
the name of Christ, born on planet Earth,
and the name of the Spirit, who envelopes our planet.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

INTROIT “Canticle of Brother Sun” by Jim Scott and Paul Winter

TRACK #1

<https://soundcloud.com/user-878313813/track01>

The Earth Mass was dedicated to St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology. This piece of music was created based upon Saint Francis' hymn entitled 'Canticle of Brother Sun.'

*All praise be yours through Brother Sun, all praise be yours through Sister Moon.
By Mother Earth my Lord be praised, by Brother Mountain, Sister Sea.
Through Brother Wind and Brother Air, through Sister Water, Brother Fire,
the stars above give thanks to thee; all praise to those who live in peace.*

*All praise be yours through Brother Wolf, all praise be yours through Sister Whale.
By Nature's song my Lord be praised, by Brother Eagle, Sister Loon.
Through Brother Tiger, Sister Seal, through Sister Flower, Brother Tree.
Let creatures all give thanks to thee. All praise to those who live in peace.*

*Ask of the beasts and they shall teach you the beauty of the earth.
Ask of the trees and they shall teach you the beauty of the earth.
Ask of the winds and they shall teach you the beauty of the earth.
Ask of the flowers and they shall teach you the beauty of the earth.*

Brother Sun, Sister Moon (4 times)

**FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH, SING OH SING, TODAY.
OF THE SKY AND OF OUR BIRTH, SING OH SING, ALWAYS.
NATURE, HUMAN AND DIVINE, ALL AROUND US LIES.
LORD OF ALL TO THEE WE RAISE GRATEFUL HYMNS OF PRAISE.
Amen.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 33 (responsive)

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.

Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.

He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth.

He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and

penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another, first in unison and then in silence.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

From the world around us: "Here we are, God" By Joan Metzner. **Earth Prayers**/84.

Here we are, God - a planet at prayer.

**Attune our spirits that we may hear your harmonies and bow before your creative power
that we may face our violent discords and join with your Energy to make heard in every
heart your hymn of peace.**

Here we are, God-a militarized planet.

**Transform our fears that we may transform our war fields into wheat fields,
arms into handshakes, missiles into messengers of peace.**

Here we are, God-a polluted planet.

**Purify our vision that we may perceive ways to purify our beloved lands,
cleanse our precious waters, de-smog our life-giving air.**

Here we are, God-an exploited planet.

**Heal our heart, that we may respect our resources, hold priceless our people,
and provide for our starving children an abundance of daily bread.**

"Kyrie" by Paul Halley and Paul Winter

TRACK #2

<https://soundcloud.com/user-878313813/track02?in=user-878313813/sets/missa-gaia>

The Kyrie -- a prayer for mercy -- contains the only Greek words left in the Western mass and dates from the early centuries of Christianity. This is undoubtedly the first Kyrie co-composed by a wolf. This female tundra wolf was recorded in Alaska. She sings the same four-note howl seven times, with slight embellishment each time. Hers is a mystical melody. It includes the interval known as the tritone – three whole steps – and evokes the mystery of the living Earth. This wolf theme combined with a celebrative syncopated rhythm from West Africa creates a powerful choral composition for the Kyrie.

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.*

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us. Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has passed away. Everything has become fresh and new. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please offer a sign to one another of Christ's peace)

ANTHEM "Beatitudes" by Jim Scott

TRACK #3

<https://soundcloud.com/user-878313813/sets/missa-gaia>

Based upon Matthew 5:1-12, this section of Mark is known as the "Beatitudes." It forms the beginning of what has come to be known as the "Sermon on the Mount" which is recorded in Matthew 5-7. This is the first and longest message of Jesus that we have in the gospel. Jesus had been announcing that the kingdom of heaven was at hand, and He had been calling for people to repent. Now, in what has been described as the manifesto of His kingdom, Jesus unveils the foundations and character of life in that kingdom. Here He teaches the ethical guidelines for life in His kingdom; and the guidelines point to the quality of righteousness that characterizes life in the kingdom, now in part, but fully in the future.

In Thy kingdom, O Lord, remember us.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are you when some shall revile you and persecute you and say all manner of evil against
you falsely, falsely for My sake.*

Great, great, great is your reward in heaven.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own,
that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 8

¹O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

²Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have
established; ⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for
them?

⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under
their feet, ⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 19

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; ⁸the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; ⁹the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹²But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God of Love be with you.

And also with you!

May the God of dolphins and little children fill you.

Our hearts swim in the depths of God's joy.

Sing praises to the One who saturates our arid souls with peace.

Our voices are lifted in glad songs of thanksgiving.

With the Spirit, you struck stony chaos and creation gushed forth, to fill the hollows of heavens, to seed the mountains you cradled in your wisdom.

You longed to sit by Eden's well, telling us stories of the world you were shaping for us.
But we tested you with our quarreling ways.
Hearing the boasts of sin and death, we bowed down and worshiped at their altars.

Prophets came to lead us through despair's desert back home to you,
but our ears were clogged with temptations' seductive songs.

Finally, you sent Jesus to meet us in our brokenness, to save us by your grace.
Therefore we join our voices with saints and sinners, with testers and pesterers,
who forever sing your praises:

"Sanctus and Benedictus" by Paul Halley, Paul Winter, and Oscar Castro-Neves

TRACK #4

<https://soundcloud.com/user-878313813/track04?in=user-878313813/sets/missa-gaia>

If any animal on Earth symbolizes the Great Mother, it is the whale. When I began to think about the Sanctus for our mass, the first thing that came to mind was the song of the whale. Paul Halley told me the Sanctus should be jubilant, and this is the way I hear the whales' song. Any species that has flourished for 30 million years ought to be jubilant. For years I had been fascinated by a particular humpback whale song on a tape loaned to me by marine biologist Dr. Roger Payne, who had recorded it with hydrophones from a small sailboat off Bermuda. I call it the "Song of Seven," since the whale sings seven times the same sequence of four phrases. The lead whale-phrase seemed a perfect seed-theme for the word "Sanctus."

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, grace-giving God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, the Fountain of our hope. When we were too weak to resist, Christ came to take on sin and death.

When we are unfaithful, Christ shows us your constant love.
When our fears and failures stain our souls, Christ cleanses us.

When our hopes for life had faded, Christ died that we might live forever.
As we remember his gentle touch, as we recall his words of hope and grace, we speak of that mystery called faith:

**Christ died that we might have hope;
Christ rose, God's hope not disappointing us;
Christ will return that we might have peace forever with God.**

Pour out your Spirit upon your children gathered in this place, and on the gifts of the Bread and the Cup. May they be the grace which nourishes and sustains us.

As we come to reconciliation's table, may our broken relationships be made whole again.
As we see you in these gifts, may we go and proclaim the good news. As we open our hearts to your never-ending love, may we offer our selves to everyone we meet.

And when all time is ended, when hunger and thirst is no more as we are fed at the Lamb's feast, we will join our hands and hearts, bowing down to worship you forever: God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat.

This is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,

Shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,

Do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,
You proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord,
Until he comes.

"Agnus Dei" by Jim Scott and Paul Winter

TRACK #5

<https://soundcloud.com/user-878313813/track05?in=user-878313813/sets/missa-gaia>

The inspiration for our Agnus Dei came from the words of Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell, a medical missionary to Labrador in 1909, "It has not been easy to convey to the Eskimo mind the meaning of the Oriental similes of the Bible. Thus the 'lamb of God' had to be translated 'kotik' or young seal. This animal, with its perfect whiteness, as it lies in its cradle of ice, its gentle, helpless nature, and its pathetic innocent eyes, is probably as apt a substitute, however, as nature offers."

In our album 'Callings', a celebration of sea animals, the final song is a ballad for the harp seals, entitled "Seal Eyes." The sense of peace in this music, and the image of a seal pup as the Lamb of God, led me to use "Seal Eyes" as the basis for our Agnus Dei, over which Jim Scott has written this exquisite choral composition. The voices in the distant background during the introduction and later in the middle of the piece, are harp seals, recorded on the ice near the Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – Responsive
A Celebration of Faith

In desert and forest, mountain and water, we see the signs that God is with us.

**In grass that grows through cities of concrete and brick,
we see the signs that God is with us.**

In the faces of people whom God so loves,
we see the signs that God is with us.

In our brokenness, there is the hope of wholeness.

In our emptiness, there is the hope of fullness.

In our deaths,

lies the hope of resurrection life.

PRAYER Unison

God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mystery of our fragile planet, we celebrate the wonders of Earth as our home. Help us to discern how we have polluted our planet and to empathize with the groaning of creation beneath us. Teach us to sense the presence of God pulsing through Earth as a living green-blue sanctuary.

Teach us to love Earth as our home. In the name of Christ, the Word of God, who is the creative impulse in all creation. Amen.

Musical Prayer of Thanksgiving "The Blue Green Hills of Earth" by Kim Oler

TRACK #6

<https://soundcloud.com/user-878313813/track06?in=user-878313813/sets/missa-gaia>

The Earth Mass also gave birth to the new hymn "The Blue Green Hills of Earth." One friend from the Lindisfarne Fellowship, astronaut Rusty Schweickart, had been the first man to walk in space without an umbilical. I heard him give a profoundly moving description of that experience, and of the nostalgia he felt, floating in space, when he looked out and saw our tiny Earth in the distance, and realized that all the joy and beauty and love that had nourished his life had taken place on that little blue marble which he could cover with his thumb.

Rusty later told me the story of Rhysling, the blind poet of the Venus Shuttle in Robert Heinlein's science fiction classic 'The Green Hills of Earth', who writes a ballad about his yearning "for one more landing on the globe that gave us birth." His last lyric stayed in my memory: "May we rest our eyes on the fleecy skies and the cool green hills of Earth."

In the summer of 1981, after Earth Mass was largely complete, I met a young musician, Kim Oler, who had heard tapes of our premiere of Earth Mass and was so moved that he had vowed to write a piece for our recording of the mass. Several weeks later, he presented a melody which we liked but didn't know how to use. Then in early September I saw Rusty in California, and I asked him to tell me again the story of Rhysling. I loved the images of the Earth forever turning and the cool green hills of Earth. On impulse I called Kim and gave him these words, and told him if he could weave from them a good lyric we might record his piece. Two weeks later he brought the song to our recording sessions, and Paul Halley created a new choral arrangement for it which we have used ever since.

***For the earth, forever turning, for the skies, for every sea,
to our Lord we sing, returning home to our blue green hills of earth. (2xs)***

***For the mountains, hills and pastures, in their silent majesty, for all life,
for all of Nature, sing we our joyful praise to Thee.***

***For the sun, for rain and thunder, for the land that makes us free,
for the stars, for all the heavens, sing we our joyful praise to Thee.***

***For the earth, forever turning, for the skies, for every sea,
to our Lord we sing, returning home to our blue green hills of earth.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Father/Mother God of everlasting goodness, our Creator and Guide, be close to us and hear the prayers of all who praise You. Forgive us when we forget to trust You to provide us with every blessing in this life. Help us not to seek things for ourselves, but with Your help to provide for all in need. Restore us to life, Lord, and keep us safe in Your Love.

Giver of all good gifts: Teach us to treasure Christ and His grace above all earthly possessions. Help us to continually cast our lot with life and not with death; with grace and not with judgment; to cast our lot with love and not with hate, with giving and not with receiving, with praising and not being praised, to cast our lot with trusting and not with fear.

We pray for those named in our sharing of joys and concerns and who are named again now, that you would reach out through your spirit - using us or others - or simply using your invisible hand – bring to pass that which they most need in their lives right now:

Hear Oh God as well this day our personal thanksgivings for your answers to our prayers and for all the good things you have blessed us with even when we have been walking through the valley of the shadow of death. Hear our hymns of praise, our heartfelt whispers of gratitude.

Hear us now as together we pray the prayer Jesus taught to his disciples, saying,

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR LIVES AND OUR OFFERINGS OFFERTORY

You are encouraged to mail your offering to John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Attn: Financial Secretary, 50 Ward Hill Road, Henrietta, NY 14467 each week to support the ministry of the church.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share.

Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth. Amen.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

May God bless us not with clean air alone.
But the will to keep our air clean.

May God bless us not with a vision of a healthy planet alone.
But with the will to do all in our power to restore and maintain our planet's health.

May God bless us not with a change of heart in the great world leaders alone to save our planet.
But with a change in our own heart to use our own power to save the planet.
(Adapt. DJMcGill/lp)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God,
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and abide with you always.

Amen.

"Canticle of Brother Sun-Reprise" by Jim Scott and Paul Winter

TRACK #7

<https://soundcloud.com/user-878313813/track07?in=user-878313813/sets/missa-gaia>

In the introduction of this performance of "The Canticle" we play the recordings of our trilogy of voices from the wild: Sister Loon, Brother Wolf, and Sister Whale.

Brother Sun, Sister Moon.

***All praise be yours through Brother Sun, all praise be yours through Sister Moon.
By Mother Earth my Lord be praised, by Brother Mountain, Sister Sea.
Through Brother Wind and Brother Air, through Sister Water, Brother Fire;
the stars above give thanks to thee; all praise to those who live in peace.***

***All praise be yours through Brother Wolf, all praise be yours through Sister Whale.
By Nature's song my Lord be praised, by Brother Eagle, Sister Loon.
Through Brother Tiger, Sister Seal, through Sister Flower, Brother Tree.
Let creatures all give thanks to thee.
All praise to those who live in peace.***