

**Trinity Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday of Easter / Earth Care Sunday
April 21, 2024**



"Whole World in God's Hands" (mural in Zacatlán, Mexico)

GATHERING

Greeting

Introit Glory to God

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest!

Glory to God, Glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

*Call to Worship

We have come here seeking to worship the God of all creation.

We have come to stand on holy ground!

We have come to sing God's praises, as trees and plants sing God's praise with their blooming.

We have come to sing praises to our Creator!

We have come to experience the mighty rush of the Spirit like our surrounding flowing waters.

We have come to experience the God of creation in this sacred space.

***Hymn** How Lovely, Lord

#402

*How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place;
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;
and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.*

*A sun and shield forever are you, O Lord Most High;
you shower us with blessings; no good will you deny.
The saints, your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go,
and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.*

Call to Reconciliation

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

Holy God, we confess that for many of us the history of how we came to be *here* is more complex than we understand. We confess that we have

lost our connection to our local habitat – to the names of the birds of the air, the fish of the waters, and every crawling thing that you have created. We confess that we are a people who have lost our connection to the dirt under our feet; the very substance into which you have breathed life. Transform us, O God, and give us roots. Help us to learn the seasons of this sacred place. Open our eyes to the seeds that have been sown here for millennia.

silent confession

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

WORD

We Share Our Faith with the Children

Hymn **All Creatures of our God and King**

#15

*All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice
and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon
with silver gleam, sing praises!*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*O brother wind with clouds and rain, you nurture gifts
of fruit and grain. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*O sister water, flowing clear, make music for
your Lord to hear. Sing praises!*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shadows of the night.

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds such blessings
on our way, sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Prayer for Illumination

God our helper, guide us into and through your word that we might be shaped by your Spirit's message to us today and transformed for service in your world. Amen.

First Reading

Romans 8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 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. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, 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. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Anthem

For the Fruit of All Creation

#36

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.

In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.

In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

*This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!***

Sermon

Rev. Natalie Wolf

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

adapted from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve condemnation and yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. Loving us still, God

makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

***Gloria Patri**

#581

Prayers of the People + The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering + Offertory

To give via text message through Breeze, our secure church management system, text your offering amount (e.g. \$25) to 662-330-1001. If this is your first time giving with Breeze, you will receive a link to briefly set up your online giving account. After you've done that, giving will be a...breeze!

***Doxology**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

#606

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING

***Hymn**

You Shall Go Out with Joy

#80

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;
the trees of the field will clap their hands;
the trees of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.*

Announcements

*Charge and Benediction

*Musical Benediction I Have Decided to follow Jesus

*I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus—
no turning back – no turning back.*

Shalom, y'all! Go in peace.

**Indicates rise in body or spirit.*

Worship Leadership:

Music: Elizabeth Hawkins, Bob Hawkins, Joe Ray Underwood, Ed Swan, George Ansel

Flowers: Nancy Underwood

Sound Technician: George Ansel

Liturgist: Jonathan Pote

Elder on Duty: Richard Brown

Sources: Adapted from Creation Justice Ministries' Earth Day resources.

Welcome to Trinity! We are glad to have you join us for worship. If you are new to Trinity, it is our prayer that you will experience the presence of God while you are here, and it is our hope that all who enter find a home. **If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join the Trinity family.** Contact Natalie with any questions or interest (pastor@trinitypcusa.org).

Children are always welcome in worship. There is a special time for children in our service called “We Share Our Faith with the Children,” after which children may go to Sunday School in the rear sanctuary classrooms with Ms. Martha + Ms. Tina (birth-kindergarten), and Ms. Rosie (1st grade-5th grade). Children are also welcome to stay in worship with their families. When we celebrate Holy Communion together (usually the first Sunday of the month), we invite the children to return to worship to participate in or witness the sacrament.

First time here? Let us know who you are by scanning this QR code and filling out the digital form. Prefer paper? Grab a blue version of this form at the welcome table (where you received a bulletin) and return the form to the elder on duty or Pastor Natalie. We promise to respect your privacy and not to spam your inbox. Thank you for trusting us with your information.



Ministers: All Members of the Church | Pastor: Rev. Natalie Wolf
Choir Director: Bob Hawkins | Pianist: Elizabeth Hawkins
Sexton: Christopher Smiley | Administrative Assistant: Alliyah Bradford
Youth Workers: Bek Carruth and Maddie Gnann
Childcare Staff: Rosie Oppedal and Martha Roskelley
Helping Hands Intake Coordinators: Henry Bell and Tina Bell

TRINITY THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 21

8:30am Choir Practice – Sanctuary
9:30am Worship – Sanctuary + Facebook Livestream
10:30am Coffee + Fellowship – Fellowship Hall
11:00am Sunday School
4:00pm Choir Practice – Sanctuary
5:00pm Youth Group – Fellowship Hall + Youth Room

Tuesday, April 23

9:30am Yoga – Sanctuary
5:30pm Helping Hands – Sanctuary

Thursday, April 25

9:30am Yoga – Sanctuary

Sunday, April 28

8:30am Choir Practice – Sanctuary
9:30am Worship – Sanctuary + Facebook Livestream
10:30am Coffee + Fellowship – Fellowship Hall
11:00am Sunday School
4:00pm Choir Practice – Sanctuary
5:00pm Youth Group – Fellowship Hall + Youth Room