

*We are a joyful, inclusive, compassionate community of faith  
seeking to do justice, act mercifully, and walk humbly with our God.*

*Loving God...Changing Lives*



## **OAK GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

2200 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington Minn. 55431  
952-888-4621 | [www.oakgrv.org](http://www.oakgrv.org)

**April 18, 2021**

**Earth Day Sunday**

**10:45 am**

### **Thoughts to Ponder**

The destruction of the environment cries out for urgent repentance and conversion. We are beckoned to rediscover a biblical version and a new understanding of ourselves and God's creation. The only future foreshadowed by the present crises, both social and ecological, is massive suffering, both human and other than human. "Giver of Life—Sustain your creation!" is our prayer; we should pray it without ceasing. – World Council of Churches

I thank thee God for most this amazing day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes' – e.e. cummings

### **We Gather in God's Name**

#### **Prelude**

#### **Welcome & Announcements**

Mary Koon

#### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Sarah Orr

#### **Call to Worship\*\***

Gar Nordin

Come, let us dwell in God's shelter. Let us dwell in God's work of art. We live in God's World; we are not alone.

**We share this life with the heavens and the earth, With the waters and the land, With trees and grasses, With fish, birds, and animals, With minerals and creatures of every form, And with all our siblings.**

God is good and everything God makes is good. God is love and everything God makes is love's fruit.

**Let us worship God!**

**Opening Song No. 20** “All Things Bright and Beautiful” (*on screens*)

*Refrain:*

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

**<sup>2</sup> The purple-headed mountain,  
the river running by,  
the sunset, and the morning  
that brightens up the sky:  
(Refrain)**

**<sup>1</sup> Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors;  
God made their tiny wings.  
(Refrain)**

**<sup>4</sup> God gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty,  
who has made all things well.  
(Refrain)**

**Opening Prayer for Earth Day**

Gar Nordin

(Christian Conference of Asia, quoted in *Duncan, Dare to Dream*, 9. 1991)

**Creator God, breathing your own life into being, you gave us the gift of life: You placed us on this earth with its minerals and waters, flowers and fruits, living creatures of grace and beauty. You gave us to care for the earth. Teach us, Creator God of Love, that the earth and all its fullness is yours, the world and all who dwell in it. Call us yet again to safeguard the gift of life. AMEN.**

**We Listen for God’s Word**

**Time for the Young & Young at Heart: “Papa God’s Well”**

Mary Koon

A story from Haiti

**Sending Song**

“Near or Far”

*J McKinnon*

Near or far apart, You’re always in my heart. God’s love is here to stay,  
Close and far away. Resting in God’s peace, Praying for God’s hope,  
Serving God’s joy, United in God’s love.

**Anthem**

“We Shall Not Be Moved”

**Scripture**

Genesis 2:4–9, 15

Mary Koon

**Message**

“Water Protectors”

Mary Koon

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Mary Koon

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### We Respond in God's Name

#### Offering of Ourselves & Our Gifts

Mary Koon

**Offering Music** "From the Waters I Will Rise"

#### Doxology (sung to the tune of hymn No. 15 "All Creatures of Our God and King")

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures, here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

#### Prayer of Dedication

Gar Nordin

**Alive in your Spirit, O God, we offer our lives – our time, our treasure, our hearts and hands – in response to your love. Receive the work we do and the gifts we bring that they might be a blessing. We pray in the name of the risen Christ, AMEN.**

### We Go Forth in God's Name

#### Closing Song No. 713 "Touch the Earth Lightly" (*on screens*)

**<sup>1</sup> Touch the earth lightly,  
use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder,  
ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

**hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete**

**<sup>3</sup> Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden,**

**<sup>4</sup> God of all living, God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow,  
and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us,  
Christ reconnect us,  
using us gently and making us one.**

#### Benediction

Mary Koon

## Sending Song No. 539 “We Will Go Out with Joy” (*on screens*)

<sup>1</sup> We will go out with joy in the Spirit;  
we will go out with God.  
We will go out with joy in the Spirit;  
we will go out with God.

<sup>1</sup> We will go out with joy in the Spirit;  
we will go out with God.  
We will go out with joy in the Spirit;  
we will go out with God.

*Refrain:*

**Alleluia! We will go out with joy.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Postlude



*Additional participants in worship today include:*

Vocalists: **Becky Dop, Gar Nordin** and **Emma Wasko**;  
Organist: **Nancy Hauser** | Pianist: **Judy Cooper**;  
Sound, Light, Video: **Greg Johnson, Andy Snyder** and **Bob Gerdes**

**Chancel flowers** are given by **Howard Baumgartner**,  
in *memory of wife, Susan & our parents*, and  
**Jan Ahlquist**, in *memory of son-in-law, Glenn Wahmann*.

\*\*adapted from an Earth day Worship at McCormick Seminary: <https://bit.ly/3g5oerl>

Thoughts to Ponder and Prayer for Earth Day found in: Hamilton-Poore, Sam. *Earth Gospel: A Guide to Prayer for God's Creation*. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2008.



The white rose on the baptismal font commemorates the completion of Baptism for **Janice Wright** who joined the church triumphant April 7, 2021, “In Life and Death we belong to God.”

## Pastor Anne Farewell Drive-Thru: May 9

Come celebrate all the color Anne Fisher has brought to our congregation with a special drive-thru on Sunday, May 9 after the 10:45 a.m. service. Bring a flower to contribute to a bouquet that we will build in celebration for Anne. We hope to see you there!