

CALL TO CONFESSION

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, we approach this time of prayer as brothers, sisters, parents, children—friends of the earth and friends above—to confess our separation from God and the ways in which we have ignored the cries of Creation. Let us pray.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God,

in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world.

Although Christ is risen from the grave and has shattered the power of death, we are still held captive by fear and doubt.

We hold onto suspicions and jealousies that set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation.

We have neglected the poor and the hungry.

In our pursuit of the "good life" we have gone along with injustice; we have ignored the cries of the oppressed.

We pursue profits and pleasures that harm the land and pollute the waters.

We have squandered the earth's gifts on technologies of destruction.

Have mercy on us, O God. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we and all your creatures may know the joy of life abundant, given through Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

SILENT PRAYERS

SUNG RESPONSE

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

No. 572

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Our Creator leads us beside still waters and restores our souls. Our Shepherd God leads us on righteous paths. Surely goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the theater of God's creation. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

HS No. 84

**Through north and south and east and west
may God's immortal name be blessed: Alleluia, alleluia!
Till everywhere beneath the sun,
God's reign begins; God's will is done:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY (11:00)

MINUTE FOR MISSION — EARTH DAY

(8:30) Peter Gates
(11:00) Rich Gregory

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (11:00)

GOD'S WORD TO US

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 23

(OT pg. 474)

ANTHEM (11:00)

The Lord Is My Shepherd

arr. Larry J. Long

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 3:1-11

(NT pg. 112)

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

What You See Is What You Get

Ken Henry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* AFFIRMATION OF THE EARTH

Earth, teach me stillness - as the grasses that are stilled with light.

Earth, teach me suffering - as old stones that suffer with memory.

Earth, teach me humility - as blossoms that are humble with beginning.

Earth, teach me caring - as the mother that secures her young.

Earth, teach me courage - as the tree that stands all alone.

Earth, teach me freedom - as the eagle that soars in the sky.

Earth, teach me resignation - as the leaves that die in the fall.

*Earth, teach me regeneration - as the seed that rises in the spring.
Earth, teach me to forget myself - as melted snow that forgets its life.
Earth, teach me to remember kindness - as dry fields that weep with rain.
Earth, teach me to be a careful steward - as our God who cares for all.*



Westminster Presbyterian Church
Charlottesville, Virginia

*HYMN (11:00) *God, You Fill the World with Beauty* HS No. 30

PRAYER CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION
CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal, p. 16)

THE OFFERING
OFFERTORY (8:30) *Fugue in F Major* Johann Pachelbel
(11:00) *When Some Kind Shepherd from His Fold* arr. Alice Parker

*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING No. 591
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* HS No. 41

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Concerto in G Major* Johann Ernst/arr. Bach

**SILENT
PRAYER AND
MEDITATION**

*Gracious God,
Creator and lover
of life, we are part
of your beautiful
but fragile
creation.
You call us to be
your stewards.
We have the
responsibility to
protect, to
nurture and to
respect it.
We seek a new
relationship with
your creation.
Enkindle in us the
fire of your love so
that together
we may renew the
face of the earth.
We make this
prayer in the
name of Jesus who
dwells within us.
Amen.*

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Earth Day!
April 22, 2018

"Whenever you do a thing, act as if the whole world were watching."
Thomas Jefferson

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY James Woodman
Partita on St. Columba

*CALL TO WORSHIP
*Awaken from your slumber.
**Bring your fears and anxieties
into God's presence.**
Hear the call of our Shepherd.
**Allow God's voice
to lead you away from selfish ambition.**
May the light of Christ
shine into the hidden darkness of our lives.
O God, restore and refresh your people's hearts and minds.
Come. Let us worship God.*

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*HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* No. 473

*Congregation may stand. #Latecomers seated.
Please turn off cell phones during the service.