

Earth Day
April 23, 2023, 9:30 am



Green Wheat Fields, Auvers, Vincent Van Gogh

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Yarmouth, Maine

Prelude

"Allegretto Pastorale"

by W. T. Best

Welcome & Announcements

Pal Covie

Opening Hymn

God of the Earth, the Sky, the Sea

The Methodist Book of Hymns

SAMUEL LONGFELLOW, 1819-1892

From WILLIAM GARDINER'S
Sacred Melodies, 1815

1. God of the earth, the sky, the sea, Mak - er of
 2. Thy love is in the sun - shine's glow, Thy life is
 3. We feel thy calm at eve - ning's hour, Thy gran - deur
 4. But high - er far, and far more clear, Thee in man's

all a - bove, be - low, Cre - a - tion lives and
 in the quick - ening air; When light - nings flash and
 in the march of night; And when the morn - ing
 spir - it we be - hold; Thine im - age and thy -

moves in thee, Thy pres - ent life through all doth flow.
 storm winds blow, There is thy power; thy law is there.
 breaks in power, We hear thy word, "Let there be light!"
 self are there, Th'in-dwell - ing God, pro-claimed of old. A-men.

Opening Acclamation

- Celebrant: Holy God, your mercy is over all your works, and in the web of life each creature has its role and place.
- People: **We praise you for ocelot and owl, cactus and kelp, lichen and whale; we honor you for whirlwind and lava, tide and topsoil, cliff and marsh.**
- Celebrant: Give us hearts and minds eager to care for your planet, humility to recognize all creatures as your beloved ones, justice to share the resources of the earth with all its inhabitants, and love not limited by our ignorance.
- People: **This we pray in the name of Jesus, who unifies what is far off and what is near, and in whom, by grace and the working of your Holy Spirit, all things hold together. Amen.**
- Celebrant: In the name of the great Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of the earth and its inhabitants.
- People: **Amen.**

The Confession & Absolution

- Celebrant We gather today to celebrate God's goodness in creation, to acknowledge our complicity in harming it, and to seek the grace and compassion to heal it together with God and one another.

(Silence for reflection.)

- People **Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed. Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin. Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**
- Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

- Celebrant* God be with you.
- People* **And also with you.**
- Celebrant* Let us pray.
O God, from whom all good proceeds: You established your covenant with all creation. Guide us and all your people, that we may walk upon the earth in righteousness and peace and honor you in our kinship with all your creatures; through the Risen One, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Lesson: "The Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry

Mike Perfetti

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his
beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.
I come into the presence of still water,
and I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light.
For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Lector Holy wisdom, holy word.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

Arthur Wolverton

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

10 How shall I repay the Lord *
For all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the Lord's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 1:17-23

Mike Perfetti

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Lector Holy wisdom, holy word.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn, #884

A Song of Creation

Wonder, Love, and Praise

1. O all ye works of God now come to
2. O sun and moon and stars of heav'n your
3. O heat and cold, O night and day, O
4. O earth and sea, O all that live in
5. O let his peo - ple bless the Lord like

thank him and a - dore; O an - gels sing and
end - less praise out - pour; O chang - ing sea - sons,
storms and thund - er's roar, O fields and for - ests,
wa - ter or on shore, O men and wo - men
right - eous souls of yore; let those of ho - ly,

1. - 4.
bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
hum - ble heart come praise him ev - er - more.

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Luke
People **Glory to you, O God.**

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Reader The Gospel of our Lord.
People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Mary Curlew

Anthem

"How Great Thou Art"

trad. Swedish hymn by Carl Boberg

*1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
 consider all the works thy hand hath made,
 I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
 thy power throughout the universe displayed;*

*(refrain) Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
 how great thou art! how great thou art!
 Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,*

how great thou art! how great thou art!

*2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;*

(refrain)

The Earth's Creed

Celebrant: Let us proclaim our promise to God, each other, and this fragile earth by saying in unison an Earth's Creed appointed for today.

People: **We have come to renew our covenant with God and with one another in Christ Jesus, our Lord.**
We have come to help protect God's creation.
We have come as followers of Jesus to commit ourselves anew to one another and to heal injustice and poverty.
We have come to stand together against all threats to life.
We have come to discover some new beauty every day in God's creation: the sunrise and sunset, birds, flowers and trees, rainbows in the sky, the stars, the many forms of life in the forest.
We have come to listen to the "music of the universe"- water flowing over rocks, the wind, trees bending in the wind, raindrops pattering the roof.
We will remember always that God speaks to us through the beauty of creation, and we will try our best to answer God's call to reverence all that God has created.

Prayers of the People

Arthur Wolverton

Leader: Blessed God, whose love calls the whole creation into covenant with you, and who puts in our hands responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures: we pray for all to whom you have given life and being, saying, "Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace."

For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray:

People: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader: For the waters of the earth; for their careful use and conservation, that we may have the will and the ability to keep them clean and pure, we pray:

People: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader: For the mineral and energy resources of the planet, that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray:

People: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader: For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small, that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray:

People: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader: For the creatures of the earth who do us harm and those whose place in your creation we do not understand or welcome, that we may see them as beloved creatures of God, we pray:

People: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader: For all who shape public policies affecting the planet and its creatures, that they may consider wisely the well-being of all who come after us, we pray:

People: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader: For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray:

People: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader: For the creatures and the human beings of your world who are ill, or in danger, pain, or special need especially...

Bobby; Charles; Kellan; Pat; Marcella; Tim; Sam; Matthew; Antonia; Al; Alex; Virginia & Jamil; Ed; Hannah; Mike; David; Sarah; Jenny & Matt; Rich, Nancy & Jonathan; Perry; Jim; Matt & Shannon; Elaine; Sasha; Katie; Paige; Anne, Richard & family; Courtney; Dianne; Diane; Karl; Sudon, Aunt Niki; Ron; Nathaniel; Boyd; Terry; Celeste; Will; Tom & Laurel; Caia; Jennifer; Jani & Lisa; Ramsey; and Alicita.

and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources or their devastation by war, that all may one day live in communities of justice and peace, we pray:

People: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader: For the gifts of science and technology and for those who practice these skills, that they may be wise, visionary, and compassionate in their work, we pray:

People: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Leader: For the creatures and the people of the earth whose lives and deaths have contributed to the fruitful abundance of this planet, we pray:

People: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Concluding Collect

People: **Gracious God: Grant that your people may have in them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: Jesus said to the disciples: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.' John 14:27
The peace of Christ be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant God's bountiful love and blessings are offered to us in great abundance. Let us, then, with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to God.

Our offerings of bread and wine are brought forward at this time.

Offertory Hymn, #405 All things bright and beautiful *The Hymnal 1982*

Offertory Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray,
People **All things come of Thee, O God, and of Thine own have we given Thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to our God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to Christ our Sovereign.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We praise and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.
From before time you made ready the creation.
Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:
sun, moon, and stars;
earth, winds, and waters;
and every living thing.
You made us in your image,
and taught us to walk in your ways.
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;
and yet, as a mother cares for her children,
you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us
to live in the fullness of your love.
And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus, S129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

the celebrant continues...

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life,
and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
"Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:
“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,
with all your saints,
from every place and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

New Zealand Book of Common Prayer

All: **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 echo 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.**

The Fraction

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
People We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

The Fraction Hymn, Agnus Dei S163

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Invitation

Celebrant Come, for all is now ready. The gifts of God for the people of God.
People Thanks be to God.

The Communion

Everyone is welcome to receive communion at St. Bart's! The ushers will invite you to come forward through the center aisle, individuals and families are invited to stand along the rounded edge of the chancel to receive the bread, hands facing upward for bread with gluten, hands facing down will indicate you'd like gluten free bread. The Chalice Bearers will follow the Priest with the chalice of wine. At this time, you are invited to sip from the cup but not to dip. If you would prefer not to sip from the cup, you may place your hands across your chest to receive the blessing of the words. If you would prefer to receive neither the bread nor the wine but would like to come forward for a blessing, please come forward as described above and simply cross your arms at your chest and the Priest will offer a blessing. Hand sanitizer is available in the aisle. Please use the side aisles to return to your seat once you have received.

Music at Communion 395 Creator God *The Hymnal 1982*
585 Morning glory, starlit sky

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray together,
People God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;

and you have made us one with all your people
in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

A Prayer for Our Time and for the Earth

Celebrant Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share;
Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of
creation.
Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as
family.
Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land
and to hear and understand those who extract its resources.
Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities
and to heal the wounds we have inflicted.
Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people
and to shape beloved community.
For you are the One who seeks the lost,
binds our wounds and sets us free,
and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray.
People Amen.

Closing Hymn, #400

All creatures of our God and King

The Hymnal 1982

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Pastoral”

by Herbert Sumsion

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Anne C. Fowler
Intern	Mary Curlew
Music Director	Dr. Christina Edelen
Musicians	The St. Bart's Choir
Chalice Bearer	Arthur Wolverton
Lector	Mike Perfetti
Ushers	Nancy Gunzelmann, Pal Covie
Altar Guild	Jan Burson, Mary Louise Chin
Flower Arranger	Chrystena Hahn
A/V	Laurie Hyndman
Counters	Tom Hyndman, Dennis Fitzgibbons
Lawn Care	Ben Redfield
VPOW	Pal Covie
Coffee Hour	Imelda Schaefer & Sarah Covie

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Liturgy: The Holy Eucharist from *Enriching our Worship 1*

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The Collects, Psalms, and Canticles are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979

The Blessing: Bishop Carol Gallagher, Member of the Cherokee Nation and Regional Canon, Diocese of Massachusetts

Cover Image: Green Wheat Fields, Auvers, Vincent Van Gogh, *Courtesy of the National Gallery of Art*

"As" by Stevie Wonder

As around the sun the earth knows she's revolving
And the rosebuds know to bloom in early may
Just as hate knows love's the cure
You can rest your mind assure
That I'll be loving you always...

Did you know that true love asks for nothing
No no her acceptance is the way we pay
Did you know that life has given love a guarantee
To last through forever and another day
Just as time knew to move on since the beginning
And the seasons know exactly when to change
Just as kindness knows no shame
Know through all your joy and pain
That I'll be loving you always...

We all know sometimes life hates and troubles
Can make you wish you were born in another time and space
But you can bet your lifetimes that and twice it's double
That God knew exactly where he wanted you to be placed
So make sure when you say you're in it, but not of it
You're not helpin' to make this earth
A place sometimes called hell
Change your words into truths
And then change that truth into love
And maybe our children's grandchildren
And their great grandchildren will tell
I'll be loving you...

Until the day is night and night becomes the day (Loving you)
Until the trees and seas just up and fly away (Loving you)
Until the day that eight times eight times eight is four (Loving you)
Until the day that is the day that are no more (Loving you)
Until the day the earth starts turning right to left (Be loving you)
Until the earth just for the sun denies itself (Loving you)
Until dear Mother Nature says her work is through (Loving you)
Until the day that you are me and I am you (Now ain't that loving you?)



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Yarmouth, ME
A Congregation of The Episcopal Diocese of Maine

Priest-in-Charge:	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
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Music Director:	Dr. Christina Edelen
Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
Intern:	Mary Curlew
Sr. Warden:	Michele Johns
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