

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

'This is an interesting planet. It deserves all the attention you can give it.' Marilynne Robinson

April 21, 2024

10:15 a.m.

PRELUDE

Dawn Hymn

Alan Hovhaness

Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME

Reverend Richard Wereley

MINISTRY FOCUS

Earth Care Team

Carla Hall

Euchre Tournament

Kim Ogle

CHORAL INTROIT

The Earth Belongs to God Alone

William P. Rowan

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Megan and Ellen Armour

One: We praise you Lord for water, oceans, rivers, streams and ponds.

All: We praise you Lord for air, wind, and gentle breezes.

One: We praise you, Lord for the sun,
the source of warmth and energy for all life on our Earth.

All: We praise you for the beautiful night sky with the moon and stars.

One: We praise you, Lord, for the wondrous variety of animals, for creatures of the air:
butterflies, sparrows, fireflies, eagles, bats.

All: We praise you for the creatures of the seas: whales, fish, coral, dolphins, oysters.

One: We praise you for the creatures of the land:
elephants, sheep, giraffes, cattle, chickens, kangaroos.

**All: We praise you for plants that sustain our bodies: potatoes, lettuce, apples;
and plants that bless our spirits: daffodils, roses, daisies, lavender.**

One: We praise you for the natural wonders of this Earth:
canyons, waterfalls, mountains and valleys.

**All: We praise you for all the resources and treasures this earth provides us
by which we are nurtured and sustained.**

**And, for all human kindred, brothers and sisters,
who share this earthly home with us, we give you thanks and praise. Amen**

*PRAYER

O Lord, we honor you and praise you for the gift of life and the awesome responsibility you have given us to be good stewards of this earth, our home. May we be ever mindful of the fragility and interconnectedness of all creation. Help us to be wise in our use of resources. Guide us to live so as to preserve the beauty and goodness of the earth for ourselves and for all generations to come. Amen

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we feel we have not sinned, we deceive ourselves because everyone has fallen short of living up to God’s call to be good stewards of creation and faithful disciples of healing and love. God, who is loving and just, is far more willing to forgive us than we are to admit our failures. So, it is with confidence in God’s love that we seek forgiveness by together confessing our shortcomings as we pray together the Prayer of Confession in the bulletin.

CONFESSION

All: Holy Creator and Sustainer of all life, forgive our attitude that all earth’s features and creatures are here solely for our own use or even our exploitation. Their value is not for mere human whims but is in their own existence and connection with all other species and planetary processes. Deepen our appreciation for the lives of our woodland kin. Help us to learn from their self-sustaining nature that needs no pay or other motivation to grow, sow seed, give food, solace and shelter to all who come to them. Teach us to live in harmony within this awesome and marvelous home you have given all your creatures. Where we have failed to be just, good and faithful stewards, forgive us. Guide us in restoring the face of the earth so that we live harmoniously, safely and equitably sharing the earth’s resources among all people as co-workers in the kingdom of God. Amen

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

Gracious God, hear our prayers. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God was in Christ reconciling all people to one another and to God.
Friends in Christ, believe this Good News of the Gospel:
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

Following the Children’s Moment, children are invited to go upstairs with Amy to Joy Worship.

ANTHEM

Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep

Engelbert Humperdinck

SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:16, 17, 23, 24

John 10:11-18

Pew Bible pages 226, 97

SERMON

An All-Inclusive God

Reverend Wereley

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

Through our monetary gifts, we offer something of our work and ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY

For the Beauty of the Earth

ARR. WILBUR HERR

*DOXOLOGY 607

**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

From the abundance of the blessings you have given us, Good Lord, we dedicate these gifts and our lives in gratitude for your love that the ministries of this congregation may continue to bless all those whom you touch through them. **Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

April Gamble

**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**

*HYMN 370 (with the verses below)

This Is God's Wondrous World

TERRA BEATA

This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the wonders wrought.
This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.
This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring: God reigns, let earth be glad!

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Carillon

Herbert Murrill

* Asterisk indicates places in the service where those who wish are invited to stand.

Today's chancel flowers are given by Valerie Fulton in loving memory of Hal Fulton.

First Presbyterian Church is a Christian community dedicated to showing God's love through worship, study, social justice, outreach, and fellowship.

**More Light Church and Member of Covenant Network
Earth Care Congregation and Matthew 25 Church**

The Mission of More Light Presbyterians: Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people in the life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.

The Mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace. We are called to achieve this goal by furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, and by working for the unity of the PC(USA).

Earth Care Pledge: Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

The Mission of the Matthew 25 Church: Matthew 25:31–46 calls us to actively engage the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. We commit ourselves to congregational vitality by acting boldly and compassionately to end systemic poverty and structural racism, serving people who are oppressed, imprisoned, poor.



QR (Quick Response) Code for Direct Donations and Contributions — the Code can be read by your smartphone and will land you on the giving page of our website where you can “Give Now” or set up a recurring donation.

First Presbyterian Church
621 College Ave., Wooster, OH 44691
330-264-9420 www.firstpreswooster.org Facebook: facebook.com/FPCWooster

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Greeters:	April 21 – Mimi Lewellen	April 28 – Don & Karen James	
Sunday Sextons:	April 21 – Aiden Hiner	April 28 – Megan Armour	
Sunday Ushers:	April 21 – Pam Giffin, Mimi Lewellen, Kathy Turning, Nancy Young		
Sunday, April 21	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship	10:15 am Worship
Monday, April 22	9:30 am Staff Meeting	12:00 pm Rotary	6:00 pm WACPAC
	7:00 pm League of Women Voters		
Tuesday, April 23	9:30 am Bible Study	6:00 pm Boy Scouts	6:00 pm WACPAC
Wed., April 24	10:00 am Memory Café	11:00 am Wooster Chamber Safety Meeting	
	2:00 pm Tri-County Speech Contest Set-up		
Thursday, April 25	8:00 am Tri- County Speech Contest (entire church building)		
	6:00 pm WACPAC	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm Book Group
Friday, April 26	6:30 pm The MID – Euchre Tournament in Bruch Hall		
Saturday, April 27	9:30 am Al-Anon	10:00 am WACPAC	12:00 pm Cub Scouts
Sunday, April 28	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship	10:15 am Worship