

Order of Worship
Sunday, April 25, 2021: Creation Care Sunday
9:30 a.m. Online

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Prelude and Lighting of Candles *Aria* (Jeff Perks)
Gaye Herndon, organist
Savannah and Connor Cherry, acolytes

Welcome Rev. Becky Rokitowski

Opening Prayer Connie Ziegler, liturgist
Loving God and Creator of all, we worship you today
deeply grateful for your creation, which speaks of your greatness.
We join in praise with the writer of the psalms, saying,
“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the Earth.”
We joyfully give you praise and thanks. Amen.

Opening Hymn *Creation Medley*

Affirmation of Faith

We believe and trust in God who created and is creating
who gazes on his handiwork in love, pronouncing it ‘very good’
who calls humanity into partnership in caring for his world
who provides in generous abundance all that is needed for the whole of creation to thrive

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ who was born like us, choosing to share our humanity
who lived an earthly life and used the natural world to teach us more of God’s nature
who died and came back to life to show us that in sacrifice lie the seeds of freedom and hope

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who breathes life and purpose into all living things
who transforms our hearts and minds, empowering us to be faithful stewards
who will lead us home at the end of our age

We commit ourselves to live day by day in the light of these beliefs, cherishing the earth
and laboring for its healing and renewing, in loving obedience to God,
following the example of Jesus Christ, and seeking the help of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Becky Rokitowski

Children's Chat

Scripture Luke 24:13-16; 28-31

Sermon *Easter People: Responses to the Resurrection*
Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks

Special Music *How Deep the Father's Love For Us* (arr. L. Schackley)
Laura Alexander, soloist

Closing Hymn

Open Our Eyes, Lord

Closing Prayer

**Loving God, you created the world and sent Jesus to live among us, made of the same stuff,
breathing the same air, marveling at sunrise and sunset just as we do.**

**Empower us to participate in the life around and within us as your life,
as you living in us and we living in you.**

**God of love and life, restore us to your peace, renew us through your power
teach us to love all that you have created and to care for the earth as your gift and our home.**

Postlude

Postlude on "Lasst uns Erfreuen" (J. Mansfield)