



BRITE

DIVINITY SCHOOL

**Earth Day
Chapel Service**

Leadership Provided by:

Dr. Timothy H. Robinson (he/him) and Steph Hord (she/her)

Tuesday, April 19, 2022



Prelude Music

Worship Leader/Musician Steph Hord (she/her)

Worship Leader at University Christian Church & Worship Architect at Galileo Church

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

Regina Franklin-Bayse (she/her)

D. Min. Student

Welcome to our celebration of Earth Day. Earth is a sacred space of every-greening life. Trees, springs, mountains, flowers, animals and humans live on her and call her home. Each teaches us about living and dying. All creation is interconnected. Planet Earth needs our respect and care. She is our sister/mother/friend/companion who stuns us with beauty and life-giving power.

- From "Return Blessings: Ecofeminist liturgies renewing the Earth" by Diann L. Neu

Opening Song

From All That Dwells Below the Skies from Psalm 117 (modified by Isaac Watts)

From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

In every land begin the song;
to every land the strains belong:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
In cheerful sound all voices raise
and fill the world with joyful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!



Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;
eternal truth attends thy word:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Poetry Reading

She Told Me the Earth Loves Us by Anne Haven McDonnell

Read by: Ashley Newlin (she/her), M. Div. Student & Moderator of BSA

Scripture Reading

Job 14:7-12, NRSV

John Kirts (he/him), M.A.T.M. Student

For there is hope for a tree,
if it is cut down, that it will sprout again,
and that its shoots will not cease.
Though its root grows old in the earth,
and its stump dies in the ground,
yet at the scent of water it will bud
and put forth branches like a young plant.

But mortals die, and are laid low;
humans expire, and where are they?
As waters fail from a lake,
and a river wastes away and dries up,
so mortals lie down and do not rise again;
until the heavens are no more, they will not awake
or be roused out of their sleep.



Hymn of Reflection

The Garden of the World (Lament for the Earth)

By Shirley Erena Murray & Lim Swee Hong

The garden of the world, the paradise we share,
The greening of all life is dying in our care,
The covenants we made are rendered null and void,
The garden that is God's, dishonored and destroyed.

New prophets tell the signs of fire, flood, and storm
Now all creation groans as nature changes form,
And yet we will not change, though ice floes melt away,
Though creatures lose their homes in desolation's day.

The poor and the displaced must struggle more than all
When hope and harvests fail, when drought has taken toll,
When air is poisoned breath, when water does not flow,
Earth's children bear the cost, earth's planting cannot grow.

The callous face of greed, the trading of the powers
Will fuel and will feed a lifestyle such as ours.
We pray for one more chance to tend to earth's repair!
The greening of all life is dying in our care.

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:18-22, NRSV

Lillian Kamau (she/her), M.T. S. Student

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;



Sermon: The Grief of a Tree

Dr. Timothy H. Robinson (he/him)

Lunger Associate Professor of Spiritual Resources & Disciplines

Remembering

One: Take the fragrant symbol you received at the door, rub it between your fingers and share with the person next to you a special memory of Earth as a planet that stirred your spirit or sense of wonder.

One: We remember planet Earth with wonder.

All: We remember our excitement when we first saw the orb of Earth, the mystery of a living green blue planet, a fragile speck of stardust made into a magnificent home.

One: We remember and rejoice.

All: Thank you, God, for the privilege of seeing Earth anew as a gift from you.

Confession

One: As I hold this fragrant symbol aloft, we remember and confess that we have become alienated from Earth and viewed this planet as disposable, a source of endless resources, a mere stopping place en route to heaven.

All: We are sorry. We have polluted Earth's waters with toxins, We have turned our greed into global warming. We have helped cause arctic regions to melt. We are loved progress more than the planet. We are sorry. We are sorry.

One: We are sorry.

All: We are sorry. We are sorry.

Adapted From Season of Creation Australia Liturgy Resources Website



Absolution

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Creator is with you!

All: And with all of Creation

One: Open your hearts to all living things, and to the One who made them

All: We open our hearts!

One: Let us give thanks to God of all things.

All: It is right to join our voices with all living things in thanking God.

(Prayer of Thanksgiving Continues)

One: With voices of thanks that echo through the universe
from the first day of creation until this moment,
We praise and thank you, saying:

**All: Holy are you, Lord of all life
And holy is all of the life you have made.
Everything that is, is filled with your glory.**



The Story

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of Peace

One: Many grains were gathered to make this bread and many grapes were mixed to fill this cup. So we who are many, and come from many places, are one in Christ. May Christ's peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another with signs of peace.

The Communion

Sharing the Elements – Siblings come and let us eat and drink

Prayer:

All: We thank you O Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you, and with all of Creation. Through the gift of yourself, heal us and help us become agents of healing for our kin on Earth. Amen.

Adapted from Iona Abbey Worship Book (Wild Goose Publications)

Closing Song:

The Earth is Yours by Gunger Michael

Your voice it thunders
The oaks start twisting
The forest sounds with cedars breaking
The waters see You and start their writhing
From the depths a song is rising



Now it's rising from the ground

Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord
The earth is Yours and singing
Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord
The earth is Yours, the earth is Yours

Your voice it thunders
The ground is shaking
The mighty mountains
Now are trembling

Creation sees You
And starts composing
The fields and trees
They start rejoicing

And now it's rising from the ground
Now it's rising from the ground
Hear us crying out
Hear us crying out

Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord
The earth is Yours and singing
Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord
The earth is Yours and singing
Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord
The earth is Yours

Benediction

Dr. Timothy H. Robinson (he/him)