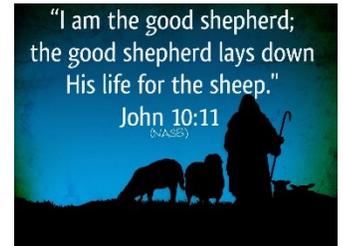




Sunday, April 25, 2021 Service Online
Faith Presbyterian Church
Sierra Vista, Arizona
Earth Sunday



PRELUDE "Opus 39, Flower Song" - Lange

GREETING One: This is the day that the Lord has made!
All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

INTROIT "Creator of Mountains"

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: God, who called all life into being,
All: **The earth, the sea and sky are yours,**
One: Your presence is all around us.
All: **Every atom is full of your energy,**
One: Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth.
All: **With her we yearn for justice to be done:**
One: For creation to be freed from bondage,
All: **For the hungry to be fed,**
One: For captives to be released,
All: **For your reign of peace to come to earth. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN "This is My Father's World" #370

*This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Father's world. O, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world. The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Creator God, have mercy on our wayward ways which turn a blind eye to the ways we live that burden the natural world. We live thinking that there are no consequences to our lifestyles, when species are dying out and habitats are destroyed. May we recognize that we have allowed the values of having more to override the permanence of your Creation, and cause us to act in ways that damage your Creation. Have mercy on us all and grant us your forgiveness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)

One: Holy One of all creation, you have called us good.

All: You have named us as your children.

One: As ones who are forgiven, we are called by Christ
to live into ways that are in harmony with all creation.

All: We are new people! Thanks be to God!!

CHILDRENS TIME Elder Richard Carter

SPECIAL MUSIC "In the Bulb, There is a Flower" Choir Members

SCRIPTURE – Ezekiel: 34:7-16

⁷ Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ⁸ As I live, says the Lord GOD, because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd; and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep; ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁰ Thus says the Lord GOD, I am against the shepherds; and I will demand my sheep at their hand, and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them. ¹¹ For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹² As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

*Holy wisdom, holy word, **thanks be to God.***

SCRIPTURE – The Gospels John 10:11-18

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

*Holy wisdom, holy word, **thanks be to God.***

SERMON

“Jesus the Good Shepherd”

RESPONSE

From A Brief statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church, USA

In life and in death we belong to God.
through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the
captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and
peace.

With believers in every time and place
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord! Amen.

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

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 debts as we forgive
our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the Kingdom
and the power and the glory forever. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

“God of the Sparrow”

#22 (verses 1-3)

*God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise*

*God of the earthquake
God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save*

*God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *“You Shall Go Out with Joy”* #80

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.*

*And all the trees of the field will clap their hands: **
the trees of the field will clap their hands; **
the trees of the field will clap their hands **
while you go out with joy.*

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.*

** clap hands

POSTLUDE *“Rejoice the Lord is King”* - arr. Benjamin

PARTICIPANTS:

Rev. Renée Rico - Pastor
Elder George Wheat - Worship Leader
Elder Richard Carter - Children's Time
Janis Wheat - Piano and Organ
Elder Paul Hay - Video-Tech