



<https://stmargaretmary.org/earth-day/>

**Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday April 29, 2018
10:30 a.m.**

**Epworth United Methodist Church
3207 37th Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55406
612-722-0232**

**epworthmpls.org
epworthumcmplsmn@gmail.com**

The Summons

PRELUDE

WELCOME

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE LIFE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Creation Justice Ministries

As we gather today, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of Anishinabe and Santee-Dakota peoples. We remember that we share this land with other parts of God's good creation: the prairie smoke flower, the mourning cloak butterfly, warblers, terns and other plants and animals. May we be good neighbors.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

~Creation Justice Ministries

We have come here seeking to worship the God of all Creation.

We have come to stand on holy ground!

We have come to sing God's praises, as pasque flowers and Virginia bluebells sing God's praise with their blooming.

We have come to sing praises to our Creator!

We have come to experience the mighty rush of the Spirit like our surrounding flowing waters, the Mississippi, Minnehaha Creek and Minnehaha Falls, and the Chain of Lakes.

We have come to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit!

We have come to experience the God of Creation in this sacred space.

AMEN.

*OPENING HYMN

"All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir"

Bill Staines

The Service

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Thank you, creating God, for bringing us to this time and place of worship. Remind us of the many ways in which you have blessed us with your abundant love and grace. Guide our hearts and our spirits that we may hear your words and we may be stirred into active service to all of your creation. In the name of the Word, through whom we came into being, AMEN.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 104

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:1-15 (CEB)

CHILDREN'S HYMN

"How Great is Our God" (vs 1)

#3003 W&S

CHILDREN'S TIME

The Epworth Gardens

HOMILY

BAM continues?

TIME OF REFLECTION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

"In the Garden"

#314 UMH

GARDEN DEDICATION ~ *Episcopal Relief & Development: Abundant Life Garden Project*

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

We gather together to ask God's blessing on our garden and to reflect on our own blessings. We dedicate our efforts in Epworth Gardens to the glory of God, to be used for God's purposes here on earth.

As all the earth is a garden, Lord, we ask that you bless this small piece of the earth. As Your Light shines upon us and upon the garden, giving us life; help us to give light and life to others.

We pray you, Lord, to bless our garden.

We ask you, Lord, to bless the water that will nourish the garden. Help the roots of our plants tap into life-giving water. Help us to always be rooted in your love and in the water of the Holy Spirit.

We pray you, Lord, to bless our garden.

We ask you, Lord, to bless the soil that nourishes new life in this ground and in this community. Help us to look in awe at the mysteries of your work not yet seen. Help us to appreciate the nourishment of your earth and use it wisely.

We pray you, Lord, to bless our garden.

We ask you, Lord, to bless the seeds we have planted and will plant. Help them to sprout and grow. Give all new life within this garden the right conditions to grow and bear fruit in Your Light.

We pray you, Lord, to bless our garden.

We ask you, Lord, for the knowledge, wisdom, and tools to best tend our garden and do your work to give life to ourselves and others.

We pray you, Lord, to bless our garden.

We ask you, Lord, for a bountiful harvest, both in our garden and in our lives. Give us the wisdom to take what we need to feed ourselves and to use our abundance to benefit others.

We pray you, Lord, to bless our garden.

Bless the Epworth Garden, O Lord, and all life within it. Give us nourishment from the garden, as we feed ourselves and the entire human family through your love and your gifts.

In Christ's name, AMEN.

Into the Serving

*CLOSING HYMN

"Shout to the Lord"

#2074 FWS

*BENEDICTION

~Creation Justice Ministries

In the name of Jesus, who was from Nazareth, we faithfully commit to this sacred place. Go forth to connect more deeply and follow more faithfully – in this place to which God has called us. **AMEN.**

*POSTLUDE