



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

695 E. Calvin Street, Fayetteville, AR 72703 • (479) 442-4411 • www.fupcfay.org

April 21, 2024

Earth Care Sunday

8:30 a.m.

GATHERING

(Please use this time to prepare reflectively for worship.)

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Jan Butin

PRELUDE

For the Beauty of the Earth
Music by Conrad Kocher; Arranged by Wayne Oquin

Isaac Thomas, piano

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 104)

O LORD, how manifold are your works!

**In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works!**

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

*HYMN 15 (verses 1, 2, 3, 6)

All Creatures of Our God and King
Words by Francis of Assisi; Music Geistliche Kirchengesäng

Glory to God

**All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam, sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O brother wind with clouds and rain, you nurture gifts of fruit and grain. Alleluia! Alleluia!
O sister water, flowing clear, make music for your Lord to hear. Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O brother fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shadows of the night. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds such blessings on our way, sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart. Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One! Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*seated, unison*)

Risen Christ, in you all things in heaven and on earth were created. In you, all things hold together. Through you, God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven. At the creation, your world was entrusted to our care so that, in obedience to you and empowered by your Spirit, we might serve all people.

But we confess that we have fallen short in our caring for your creation. Forgive us, gracious God. Inspire us to use the riches of your creation with wisdom, and to ensure that their blessings are shared by all. Trusting in your bounty, may all people flourish in faith and hope, as together we serve one another in love. Amen. (*silent confession*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel! **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*RESPONSE 48

Rain Down
Words and Music by Jaime Cortez

Glory to God

**Rain down; rain down; rain down your love on your people.
Rain down; rain down; rain down your love, God of life.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Creation Will Be at Peace
Words by J. Paul Williams; Music by Anna Laura Page

Chancel Choir
Xiao Yang, piano

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace. *(repeat verse)*

The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed,
their young will play together; a little child will lead.

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.

The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw.
They will war no more, they will war no more; a child will lead them all.

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Phil Butin

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 1:15-20 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

SERMON

In Christ All Things Hold Together

Rev. Phil Butin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *A Declaration of Faith*)

Rev. Jan Butin

We affirm that the universe exists by the power of God's Word and Spirit. God has chosen to give it reality out of the love we have come to know in Christ. God still works through the processes that shape and change the earth and the living things upon it. God made human beings along with all the other creatures and charged us to care for the earth and all that lives on it.

We acknowledge we share in the interdependence that binds together all God's creation. We hold the earth in trust for future generations of living things. The Lord forbids us to plunder, foul, and destroy the earth. The Lord expects us to produce, to consume, to reproduce in ways that make earth's goodness available to all people and reflect God's love for all creatures. God's purpose embraces our choices and will surely be accomplished. The Creator works in all things toward the new creation that is promised in Christ.

MINUTE FOR CREATION CARE

James Moore

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Rev. Jan Butin

OFFERTORY

Great is Thy Faithfulness
Words by Thomas O. Chisholm; Music by William M. Runyan;
Arranged by Dan Forrest

Cole Jackson, baritone
Isaac Thomas, piano

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father! There is no shadow of turning with Thee!
Thou changeset not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest; sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine with ten thousand beside;
ten thousand beside, blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.
Lord, unto me! Amen.

*RESPONSE 19 (verses 1, 2)

God of Great and God of Small
Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth

Glory to God

**God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all, God of weak and God of strong,
God to whom all things belong, alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

**God of land and sky and sea, God of life and destiny, God of never-ending power,
yet beside me every hour, alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Jan Butin

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy.... Therefore, we praise you, saying
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

You are holy, O God of majesty.... Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us... Send us out to be the body of Christ in the
world. **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP

(After you receive the communal elements, please use this time prayerfully and reflectively.)

PARTAKING OF THE COMMUNAL ELEMENTS

The gifts of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, in your grace. **You hear our prayer.**

Kristi Button

THE 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.

SENDING

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Jan Butin

***HYMN 630 (verses 1, 2, 3)**

Fairest Lord Jesus

Glory to God

Words by Münster Gesangbuch; Music Silesian folk melody

**Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.**

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Phil Butin

POSTLUDE

For the Fruit of All Creation
Welsh Folk Melody

Isaac Thomas, piano

*(Our worship continues through the Postlude.
If you need to leave, please do so quietly. Otherwise, please remain seated.)*

Participants

Revs. Phil and Jan Butin, Co-Pastors

Isaac Thomas, Minister of Music/Commissioned Ruling Elder

Xiao Yang, Choral Accompanist

Ceci Allen, Cole Jackson, Jeffrey Kerst, Abbey Pennick, Isabelle Pennick, Choral Interns

Christopher Verdery, Connor Button, and Drew Parker, Audio/Visual Team

Kristi Button, Director of Christian Education

Amanda McDonald, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Mindy Mock, Childcare Coordinator

Amy McCann, Membership Coordinator