



**Good Soil Lutheran Ministries/Lakewood Abbey**

*Blessing the Earthkeepers*

April 29, 2020

7:00 p.m.

**Worship Leader** – Marilyn Matevia, Pastoral Intern, Good Soil Lutheran Ministries/ Lakewood Abbey

**Assisting** – Christi Casstevens Strieter and Rev. John Butchko

**Director of Music** – David Strieter

**Vocalist** – Maria Jacobs

## *Blessing the Earthkeepers*

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Come, let us dwell in God's shelter.  
Let us dwell in God's creation.  
Come, because the Earth is the Lord's,  
And God's Earth is our home.  
*We live in God's World; we are not alone.  
We share this life with the heavens and the earth,  
With the waters and the land,  
With trees and grasses,  
With fish, birds, and animals,  
With minerals and creatures of every form,  
And with all our brothers and sisters.*  
God is good and everything God makes is good.  
God is love and everything God makes is love's fruit.  
Let us worship God!i

Gathering Hymn: WOV #767 – All Things Bright and Beautiful

Prayer of the Day

You are the living God who sustains all life in continually unfolding ways. And now may we open our ears to your continually unfolding Word. You speak to us in new and vital and imperative ways. With all the power you have given us, let us be silent and open to listening . . . for nourishment, comfort, for challenge and new focus. Amen.ii

## Readings

#1 – Wonder

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-26

Reflection: "Intricacy," by Annie Dillard, excerpt from *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

## #2 – Wisdom

Scripture: Job 12:7-10

Reflection: “Wild Geese,” by Mary Oliver, from *Dreamwork*

## #3 – Patience

Scripture: Genesis 18:22-33

Reflection: “Drops in the Bucket,” by Anna Lappe’ (*Earth Island Journal*, Spring 2018; excerpt)

## #4 – Comfort

Scripture: Psalm 23

Reflection: “The Peace of Wild Things,” by Wendell Berry, *The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry*

## #5 – Renewal

Scripture: Psalm 36: 5-12

Reflection: “A Garden Beyond Paradise,” by Rumi

## #6 – Hope

Scripture: Romans 8:18-27

Reflection: “The Optimism of Uncertainty,” by Howard Zinn, adapted from *The Impossible Will Take a Little While*

Hymn of the Day: ELW #740 - God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale

## Prayers

### Invitation to Blessing & Candle-lighting

We invite you – vocational earthkeepers, rescuers, supporters, all who care for the earth and its inhabitants – to receive a blessing in support of a thanksgiving for your efforts, and/or to light a candle on behalf of the creatures and causes dear to you.

### Prayers of the People on Behalf of All Creation

*After each petition, the assisting minister begins, “Lord in your mercy...” and the congregation responds, “hear our prayer.”*

The Lord’s Prayer (from the New Zealand Prayer Book) – *we pray together:*

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.

## The Sending

**Blessing** (from "Go out in joy," by Ken Sehested *adapted from Job 12:7-10, Psalm 19:1-4, Psalm 97:6, Isaiah 55:12 and St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Sun"*)

"What is it you wish to know, oh mortal one?

Do you think you must ascend to the highest heaven or descend to the deepest pit?

Do you not know that Wisdom has pitched a tent in your midst?

Ask the four-legged, and they will mentor you, or the winged-of-air, and they will school you;

Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you.

Who does not know that the Gracious Host has done this?  
In the Blessed One's reach is the heart of every creature, the breath of every

living thing.

Brother Sun declares the Beloved's glory. His voice goes out o'er all the earth, his words to every inhabited place.

Sister Moon and stars pour forth speech to brighten the night in splendor and counsel.

Now hear the blessed promise of old, made new in your hearing:

May you go out in joy and be led back in peace, the hills bursting in song, the trees in applause!"

**Sending Hymn: ELW #836 - Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**

**Dismissal**

Go forth, remembering God's promises and blessings. Joyfully give back to the world the love you have received, believing that God loves all creation and abides with us.<sup>iii</sup> **Thanks be to God!**

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**"What To Do," by Charles Mungoshi**

"Take out all your belongings -  
Furniture, clothes, crockery -  
All you have since held dear  
Take them all out  
And return them to the forest.

Now, bring in the sky  
The mountains, distant views  
Of anything, the rivers, trees,  
Boulders; the animals, birds  
And insects --  
Set them loose in your room.

Now --  
Kneel down anywhere  
And give thanks."

The Lakewood Abbey is a worship and service community under development and sponsored by Good Soil Lutheran Ministries. Follow us on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/lakewoodabbey/>

Join our monthly Holy Hikes on the second Saturday of each month in Cleveland-area parks.

The schedule is posted on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/HolyHikesNortheastOH/>

*This service compiled by Marilyn Matevia/The Lakewood Abbey.*

i McCormick Theological Seminary Earth Day Liturgy; <http://www.webofcreation.org/Worship/services/celebrationEarthDay.htm>

ii Same.

iii Written by Henrietta Smith Adams; posted at the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website