



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66210 ♦ 913-345-1256 ♦ gpcpc.org

Service of Worship
Second Sunday of Easter
Earth Day

April 23, 2017

11:05am

Gathering All People in a Caring Christian Community

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fred Holbrook

(Please sign and pass the Grace Greetings books at this time.)

MISSION STUDY TEAM UPDATE

Bert Benton and Tim Hayden

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING *(continued)*

INTROIT

“Christ Is Alive”

arr. Jane Holstein

Chancel Choir – Chancel Brass
Linda Dover, organ

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.
Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
Christ is alive and comes to bring good news to this and every age;
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.
Christ is alive! Alleluia!*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us worship God together. Let us sing to the Lord a new song; a song for and with all the creatures of the earth.

All: Let us rejoice in what God has created. It is good!

One: Let us marvel at the creatures that are wonderful in God’s sight.

All: Let us extol God’s handiwork.

One: Lord, help us to wonder and to stand in awe at the richness of the world before us.

All: Every creature gives you praise.

*HYMN 14, v. 1-4 “For the Beauty of the Earth” DIX
(The children are invited to come forward on the final stanza.)

COME AS A CHILD

(Afterwards, children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship service. Greeters will meet the children at the back of the sanctuary and go to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up children when worship is over.)

Sing 611, v. 1 & 2 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” HYMN TO JOY

CONFESSION OF SIN *(unison)*

Compassionate God, we too often ignore the cries and suffering of your creatures. Our lives are bound up with other species, and we ask your forgiveness for the ways we mistreat your creation. Give us clean hearts and caring hands, O God. Remind us that we too are creatures, interdependent and vulnerable. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God declares all creation good.

All: We are among God’s creatures and humbled that God calls on us to till and keep the earth. With hope and inspiration to answer that call, we place our trust in God to show us the way. Praise be to God our Creator! Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you and everyone.

All: And also with you and all others!
(Let us greet one another with expressions of love.)

*HYMN 18 “Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator” BATAK MELODY

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

One: In lament for what we have done, or what we have failed to do, for endangered species that are struggling to survive: We pray for creatures that have been endangered for the sake of profit, for creatures killed by environmental disasters wrought by human carelessness, and for animals that have lost their habitat.

All: God, hear our prayers.

One: With concern for animals that suffer in unhealthy environments, for animals neglected and ill-treated, for animals inhumanely raised in factory farms, for homeless animals that face euthanasia.

All: God, hear our prayers.

One: We acknowledge the beauty of God’s diverse and wondrous creatures and that God made them all in wisdom.

All: God, hear our prayers.

One: In gratitude for service animals that offer protection and for pets that bring us comfort.

All: God, hear our prayers. Amen.

*Equipping People to Develop and Share a
Faith That Works in Real Life*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Mara Smith

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalms 148

(Old Testament, Page 582)

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

(Old Testament, Page 1)

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Bless the Beasts and the Children”

Fred Holbrook

Sending People to Serve in the World

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

arr. by Claude T. Smith

“Chorale Prelude: For the Beauty of the Earth”

Symphony Orchestra – Pam Kelly, director

*HYMN 22

“God of the Sparrow”

ROEDER

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *(seated)* “For the Beauty of the Earth”

arr. Conrad Kocher

Phil Holmes, trumpet – Linda Dover, accompanist

**If convenient/able, please stand.*

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