#### LORD'S PRAYER

Music

Our Father who art in heaven, ...

Joshua Allen

Rev. Michele R. Goff

Invitation to Offering

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods yet refuses to help a sister or brother in need?

Remembering God's great love for the world, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Kelly Weaver

Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world—giving food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, and new life to the dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will know your goodness and praise your glory; in the name of Christ our Lord. *Amen.* 

## — Sending —

#### **BLESSING AND CHARGE**

Rev. Michele R. Goff

May the love of the holy triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the one God, Mother of us all, abide with you forever. *Alleluia!* 

Now go forth in Jesus' name, remembering his new commandment to love one another, just as he has loved us. *Amen.* 

Postlude Joshua Allen

Serving God,

Honoring Creation,

Embracing Differences





## First Presbyterian Church Henderson Fourth Sunday of Easter Earth Day Sunday April 25, 2021

Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses

# Service for the Lord's Day — Gathering —

WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

**PRELUDE** 

Joshua Allen

Joshua Allen

#### **OPENING SENTENCES**

Liturgist, Kelly Weaver

We gather to worship the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for his sheep.

We gather to worship Jesus Christ,

who calls us to lay down our lives for others.

Easter people, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

#### **GATHERING PRAYER**

Music

Confession Kelly Weaver

Giver of life, in the midst of a plundered earth we groan with creation: *Have mercy on us.* 

Giver of life, in the midst of poisoned water we groan with creation: *Have mercy on us.* 

Giver of life, in the midst of polluted air we groan with creation: *Have mercy on us.* 

Giver of life, in the midst of mountains of waste we groan with creation: *Have mercy on us.* 

Giver of life, in the midst of rising seas, we groan with creation: *Have mercy on us.* 

Giver of life, forgive us and make us agents of healing for the good of your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

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#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Rev. Michele R. Goff

In the water of baptism, God pours out mercy and blessing. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace as you share that blessing with others and care for this good earth, that all creation may declare God's glory. *Thanks be to God.* 

ALLELUIA!

Joshua Allen

- Word -

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kelly Weaver

#### SCRIPTURE

Our first New Testament reading is from the book of Acts chapter 4, verses 5 through 12. O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Our next reading is from the First letter of John chapter 3 verses 16 through 24. Listen to the word of the Lord.

This is the good new which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved. *Thanks be to God.* 

PSALM 23 Joshua Allen

GOSPEL Rev. Michele R. Goff

Our gospel lesson today is from the gospel according to John chapter 10, verses 11 through 18. Hear the word of God for us.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Thanks be to God.

**SERMON** 

"Green Pastures, Still Waters"

Rev. Michele R. Goff

### **ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE**

— Response —

Music Joshua Allen

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Kelly Weaver

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.22

New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are.

They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**M:** Holy One, Holy Three, mother of all creation:

Yours is the womb of all life.

Yours is the fountain of living water.

Yours is the voice that breaks down walls.

Yours is the love that cannot be contained.

**K:** For the thirsty, you give the water of life.

For the hungry, you offer the bread of heaven.

For the weak, you carry heavy burdens.

For the joyful, you shout in holy laughter.

For the anxious, you summon showers of peace.

For the suffering, you breathe sighs of comfort.

**M:** As we pray for the new heaven and new earth, O God, we give thanks for this earth, our partner in your service. Move us to hear your voice in the song of the sparrow,

to see your face reflected in the river.

**K:** Awaken us to your greatness through the winds of the storm, and the scent of your grace on the morning dew. Empower us to hear your prophets in the croaks of evening frogs, to read your gospel in the webs of writing spiders.

M: Yours is the womb of all life, O God.

Yours is the fountain of living water.

Yours is the voice that breaks down walls.

Yours is the love that cannot be contained.

**K:** In your great mercy you call us to care for your creation,

to uphold one another, and to pray for your world.

Hear our prayers for the healing of the earth . . .

For clean water, that all may drink . . .

For the right use of resources

and the careful tending of the land and the seas . . .

For people and places damaged by war . . .

For those who suffer, those whose needs are known to us, and those whose needs are known only to you . . .

~ ~ ~ A time of silence ~ ~ ~

M: With confidence that you hear our prayers, we offer ourselves for your good purposes, watching and waiting for the healing of your creation as we work toward your coming reign.

Through Christ our Savior, in the power of the Holy Spirit, all glory and praise to you now and forever. Amen.