

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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.*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** From a Distance (Gold) Ensemble

**\*DOXOLOGY #607**  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**  
—Sending—

**\*HYMN (see insert)** Blue Boat Home

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**  
(Adapted from the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian,  
"Be the Church: Protect the Environment" worship)

**POSTLUDE** Let All Things Now Living Joshua Allen  
*You may sit after the light passes you in the aisle.*



**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**  
Henderson, Texas



*Serving God,  
Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences*



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**LET US STRIVE TOGETHER TO  
MAKE OUR EARTH MORE  
BEAUTIFUL....  
HERE WISHING YOU A  
HAPPY EARTH DAY**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HENDERSON, TX**  
**4th Sunday of Easter  
Earth Care Sunday  
April 21, 2024**

(\*) Please rise in body or in spirit  
**Bold Italic Letters** indicate congregational response

— Gathering —

**PRELUDE** All Creatures of Our God Now Sing (arr. Hayes) Joshua Allen  
**WELCOME** Liturgist: John Tieken

**\*A LITANY OF CARE FOR ALL CREATION** (inspired by 1 Cor 13)  
If I do not live out my love,  
***I am only a resounding gong; we are only clanging cymbals...***

...Let us pledge to tend the garden of our world,  
To nurture, protect, and cherish every corner,  
For in our love for creation, we find our own selves,  
And in our care for the earth, we manifest love to a world in need of care.  
And when we live out our care and our love,  
***We become the hands and feet of compassion, transforming the world.***

**\*HYMN #14** For the Beauty of the Earth

**CONFESSION** (Adapted from Cláudio Carvalhaes, "Lenten Journey with the Earth through the Stations of the Cross")

***God of change, we want to be transformed: Where there is forgetfulness about the earth, may I be a remembrance of your love for the earth. Where there is unawareness of relationship with the earth, let me remind people, we are the earth. Where there is only talk about private property, may I remind folks that the earth belongs to you. Where there is a sense of ownership, when we think we own the earth, let me say out loud that we belong to the earth. When we only talk and preach and pray about humans, let me pray with animals and plants, trees and rivers and mountains. Where there is only talk about heaven, let me speak about the earth hurting right now. Where there is a spirituality of words only, may I touch the ground, lean on a tree, hold a plant, touch the water, breathe a long breath. and listen to the birds. Amen.***

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** "Wild Geese" by Mary Oliver

...Hear and believe the Good News, we have a place in the family of things.  
***We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!***

**\*ALLELUIA #15** All Creatures of Our God, Now Sing (v 1)  
***All creatures of our God now sing, lift up your voices, let them ring!  
Sing Praises, Alleluia!  
Great Mother Earth who day by day unfolds her blessings on our way,  
Join and praise God, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!***

—Word—

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** What a Wonderful World (Thiele) Stefen Kane, Flute

**FIRST READING** Psalm 19:1-6 Bible p. 472, LG p. 613

**SECOND READING** John 1:1-5 (CEB) Bible p. 86, LG p. 111  
The word of the Lord.  
***Thanks be to God.***

**HYMN #713** Touch the Earth Lightly

**EARTH CARE REFLECTIONS** (by Allyson Sawtell) CE Green Team  
"Falling in Love with Creation" Claudia Morgan-Gray

**SONG** Draw the Circle Wide Ensemble  
"The Cry of Christ" Claudia Morgan-Gray and Lynn Tieken  
"The "Here We Are" Lynn Tieken

—Response—

**\*HYMN #370** This is My Father's World  
(\*This is God's Wondrous World)

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from "Great is Thy Faithfulness" GTG #39)

***Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To God's great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Amen.***