

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Rev. Kevin M. Pleas

Online Worship

April 18, 2021

**PRELUDE** "In the Garden" – arr. Jennifer Cook Adam Peithmann

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Kevin Pleas

**INTROIT** "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive)

**Leader:** Sing praises to God, you faithful, give thanks to God's holy name!

**People:** **Weeping may linger for a night, but joy comes in the morning.**

**Leader:** You turn our weeping to dancing, God; you remove the garments of mourning and clothe us in gladness.

**People:** **May we praise you and not be silent! We will give thanks to you, O God, forever!**

**OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

**God, you are the source of our life. Gather us now together, we pray. Form us into a holy community of your own people, molding us by the breath of your Holy Spirit, and revealing in this corporate body the face of your anointed Christ. Amen.**

**HYMN # 693** "Touch the Earth Lightly"

**PASTORAL PRAYER** Barbara Papagian

**TIME OF SILENCE**

**OUR 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.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE** "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

**SCRIPTURE READING** Michelle Harrington

Romans 8:18-25 (New Revised Standard Version)

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

“Healing the Creation”

Rev. Kevin Pleas

**HYMN # 697**

“Creative God, You Spread the Earth”

**CLOSING WORDS**

**BENEDICTION (Unison)**

**May the God who shakes heaven and earth,  
Whom death could not contain,  
Who lives to disturb and heal us,  
Bless you with power to go forth  
And proclaim the Gospel.  
The grace of God be with you all,  
Now and always.  
Amen**

**POSTLUDE**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” – arr. Joel Raney

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**Please note: In these difficult times, we are holding you all in our thoughts and prayers. For those who are able, we are grateful for your continuing contributions to the stewardship of our church.**

**Opening Hymn no. 693**

**“Touch the Earth Lightly”**

1. Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently, nourish the life of the world in our care: gift of great wonder, ours to surrender, trust for the children tomorrow will bear.
2. We who endanger, who create hunger, agents of death for all creatures that live, we who would foster clouds of disaster- God of our planet, forestall and forgive!
3. Let there be greening, birth from the burning, water that blesses and air that is sweet, health in God’s garden, hope in God’s children, regeneration that peace will complete.
4. God of all living, God of all loving, God of all seedling, the snow and the sun, teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us, using us gently, and make us one.

**Prayer Response (Hymn no. 306) “Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”**

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.

**Closing Hymn no. 697**

**“Creative God, You Spread the Earth”**

1. Creative God, you spread the earth with life in many forms: the deer and elk and columbine, the bee in humming swarms. Forgive us for each flow’r and bird now vanished by our hand. Teach us to treat with loving care the creatures of the land.
2. The planet teemed with living things before all human birth, and even fire and beasts of prey renewed the life of earth. Forgive us, that, the last to come, we threaten sea and air. Teach us to tend life’s fragile web with wise and tender care.
3. O playful God, you fill the field with lavender and blue. You paint the bird with indigo, with red or tawny hue. Forgive us that we grieve your heart, destroying what you do, and teach us simpler, gentler ways to live on earth with you.