

**April 26, 2026**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**PRELUDE (A Time for Quiet Meditation)**

*Shall We Gather at the River*

*Patricia Lou Harris*

**WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #20**

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*  
(refrain)

*Royal Oak*

***All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.***

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Psalm 148)**

One: Let heaven celebrate! Let the earth rejoice!

**All: Let the sea and everything in it roar! Let the countryside and everything in it celebrate!**

One: Then all the trees of the forest, too, will shout out joyfully before the Lord because the Lord is coming! The Lord is coming to establish justice on the earth!

**All: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

**\*GATHERING SONG #26**

*Earth and All Stars!*  
(verse 1)

*Earth and All Stars*

***Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
God has done marvelous things. We too sing praises with a new song!***

(verse 2)

***Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
God has done marvelous things. We too sing praises with a new song!***

(verse 4)

***Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Daughter and son! Loud praying members! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
God has done marvelous things. We too sing praises with a new song!***

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**CALL TO CONFESSION (John 10:14)**

Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd; I know my own, and my own know me."

In confession, we trust God to know us fully: the good and the bad, the faithful and the sinful. But we, also, know God's mercy, God's faithfulness, and God's power to redeem us and lead us into new life. Trusting in this promise, let us confess our sins together:

\*Please stand as you are able.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Precious God, we humbly come before you this day. We acknowledge that all creation comes from and is a reflection of you. By your creative will and design, all life forms took shape out of your holy breath - each for its particular purpose and yet all interdependent. Our hearts are heavy with grief at the harm we cause our human and nonhuman kin. We ask your forgiveness. We pray for ourselves and all people to repent and change our destructive ways. Beloved Creator, we ask that you speak to all hearts to change our ways.**

*(Time of Silence)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The proof God's amazing love is this: while we were yet sinners, Christ came to us; Christ died for us; and Christ rose from the dead so that all of creation might be renewed. Believe this good news: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and restored to new and abundant life.

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*SONG OF RESPONSE #246**     *Christ Is Alive!*

*Truro*

*(verse 5)*

***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.***

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## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Because we have peace with God through Christ, let us share this peace together. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And, also, with you.**

## UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**O God, give us the listening ear that will not shrink from words that challenge us to deeper understanding and higher resolve; words that lay bare our discomfort with uneasiness; words that seize upon everything decent in our nature and channels it into paths of healing in the lives of others. Amen.**

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING     *Acts 2:42-47*

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*Dona Nobis Pacem*

*Lightfoot*

\*Please stand as you are able.

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** *Ezekiel 47:1-12*

Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple towards the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. <sup>2</sup> Then he brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me round on the outside to the outer gate that faces towards the east; and the water was coming out on the south side.

<sup>3</sup> Going on eastwards with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits, and then led me through the water; and it was ankle-deep. <sup>4</sup> Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was up to the waist. <sup>5</sup> Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. <sup>6</sup> He said to me, 'Mortal, have you seen this?' Then he led me back along the bank of the river. <sup>7</sup> As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on one side and on the other. <sup>8</sup> He said to me, 'This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. <sup>9</sup> Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. <sup>10</sup> People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eg-laim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. <sup>11</sup> But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. <sup>12</sup> On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.'

### **THE MESSAGE**

*"The Canopy of Creation"*

*Rev. Dr. John Wahl*

### **UNISON CONFESSION OF FAITH (from "The Canopy of Creation" Creation Justice Ministries)**

**Creation calls us to open our eyes to the devastation we have and are causing our earthly home. The harm being done to trees, soils, oceans, air, and so much more. Creation is waiting for us to move from doing what is easy to doing what is necessary and right. Creation is waiting for us to prioritize the needs of community over the convenience of self, for loving each other is a seed of hope. God we ask for radical courage to remember that we are creations within creation. May we be moved to assume our roles as creation's servants and protect it; know that we are a human and nonhuman family, inhabiting the same home. Amen.**

### **CALL TO OFFERING**

*We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available for making monetary donations.*

### **OFFERTORY**

*Offertory in F Sharp Minor*

*Nicolas Gigault*

**\*DOXOLOGY #36** *For the Fruit of All Creation*  
(verse 3)

*Ar Hydy Nos*

***For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God. For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.***

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**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*SENDING SONG #713** *Touch the Earth Lightly* *Tenderness*  
(verse 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.***

(verse 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!***

(verse 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.***

(verse 4)

***God of all living, God of all loving, God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun, teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us, using us gently and making us one.***

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**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION** *Worthy is Your Name* *Jernigan*

**POSTLUDE** *How Firm a Foundation* *Steven Scott*

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Earth Care Congregations**

In 2022, Valley was designated an Earth Care Congregation by our denomination, after having signed this statement and working on annual goals in each of these four areas:

#### Earth Care Pledge

- Our *worship* and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation.
- Our *education* will encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation.
- Our *facilities* will be managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all creation.
- Our *outreach* will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.

## Pet Supply Drive – April 26

Payton Timmons is collecting blankets / other pet supplies for donation to Rescue Village! As part of the Kenston High School National Honor Society, her project involves accepting donations for animal shelters. If you have any blankets or other supplies, please let her know, or drop them off today. Any donations are greatly appreciated! Thank you!

## Knitting For Others

Inviting all folks from 12-100 years of age, who like to knit or who would like to learn, to be a part of Valley's Knitting Group.



**The group will meet Sunday, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.:**  
**April 26**

This group has been busy knitting prayer blankets and shawls for members of our congregation. It takes a lot of yarn to knit or crochet these items. Many of us have made items in the past but have not used quite all the yarn. Knitting for Others can use the leftover yarn to make items to share with others. We are currently making items for babies and young children. If you have any size-3 or 4 yarn that you will not be using and could share with Knitting for Others, we certainly would appreciate your donation. Yarn can be left in the box marked “yarn” in the Library. Thank you so much for your help.

For questions, please call one of our Co-Chairs, Beverly or Bev:

Beverly Wahl  
502-553-7255

Bev Keough  
330-888-5385

## CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center:



**Ground beef, chicken, eggs, milk, fresh fruit and vegetables, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti sauce, pasta, Spaghetti O's, snacks, or anything you would like to donate.**

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations. You can, also, leave them in the blue donation bin in the Narthex.

## Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

**Friday, May 15** (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

**Saturday, May 16** (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or [passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com](mailto:passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com).

## Donations – Credit Card or Zelle

**Credit card** donations are available on-line at the Valley Presbyterian website below:

<http://valleypresbychurch.org>

Look for “Give Now” button. Can only be used for donations.

Can not pay for holiday flowers, VBS, books, etc. at this link.

Use the following QR Code to donate via **Zelle**:



### **VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**[www.valleypresbychurch.org](http://www.valleypresbychurch.org)**

**VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345**

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Liturgist: John Hoffman

Organist: John Kautzman  
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