

Druid Hills Presbyterian Church

Earth Day Worship Service

Third Sunday of Easter, April 23, 2023

Welcome!

Druid Hills Presbyterian Church calls everyone into Christian community to explore God's purpose for our lives, celebrate God's work in the world, and serve the needs of our neighbors.

GOD GATHERS US AROUND THE WORD

† *You are invited to stand when you see this symbol.*

PRELUDE

How Great Thou Art

arr. Fred Bock

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader: We who have lost our sense and our senses
—our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are;
we who frantically force and press all things, without rest for body or spirit,
hurting our Earth and injuring ourselves: we call a halt.*

All: We want to rest. We need to rest and allow the Earth to rest.

*We need to reflect and to rediscover the mystery that lives in us,
that is the ground of every unique expression of life,
the source of the fascination that calls all things to communion.*

**We declare a Sabbath, a space of quiet: for simple being and letting be;
for recovering the great, forgotten truths; for learning how to live again.**

† **HYMN #667**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Laudes Domini

When morning gilds the skies, | my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised! | Alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair: | may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round | in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised! | Let air and sea and sky
from depth to height reply: | may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, | my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised! | Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long: | may Jesus Christ be praised!

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF BROKENNESS

Gracious God, forgive us for the ways in which we contribute to the disfigurement and destruction of your creation:

We live by our wants rather than our simple needs.

We take too much, leaving others with not enough.

We ravage the earth and then leave behind abundant waste.

We do too little to respond to the groans of the creation.

Transform our hearts and minds, that we may place the welfare of your earth and your people before our fleeting desires. Embolden us to listen to and amplify the voices long silenced in our communities and ecosystems. Grant us divine courage to speak up, take action, and replace systems of destruction and oppression with systems of justice and sustainability.

(time for silent reflection)

POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I affirm the earth as sacred in my life because I am dust and to dust I will return. We are the living earth; She moans next to me, and together, with me, she shall be liberated.

I affirm water as sacred in my life, water that has been both a pleasure and a refreshment for tired bodies from generation to generation. We are fresh water; it gives us life as it runs through our veins and revives us for resurrection.

I affirm life on Earth as sacred, life that bursts in the world stubbornly against death. We are resurrected life, the harmonious vitality of dignity that becomes "good living."

I affirm plants and animals as sacred in my life because of the relationship that binds us. We are creation, trees and fungi, fish and wild beasts, birds and insects. We have flesh and roots that bear witness to creative and creating Wisdom.

I affirm the wind as sacred in my life because it is subversively democratic. We are a holy breeze, a Spirit that blows everywhere to give breath to suffocated lives.

I affirm death as sacred in my life when it is worthy and comes when it must - at the right time. We are resurrection, death does not have the last word; we do not live to die, but we die to rise again.

Therefore, I affirm my faith in the God of earth, water, life, plants, and animals. I affirm my faith in God that is wind, breath of life, and resurrection. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

SERMON

“Taking a Cue from Joseph”

Rev. Betsy Turner

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

MISSION MOMENT: CENTER FOR HARD TO RECYCLE MATERIALS Bob Battaglin

INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS — Consider supporting our ministries through an [online gift](#), or mail a check to Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, 1026 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30306. Offering and prayer/attendance cards may be placed in the stands at either end of the sanctuary.

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Thank you to the Property and Admin Team and Mike Williams for the recent re-painting. It looks great!

Earth Stewardship Invitation: Continue the Earth Day festivities by joining us right after worship for an opportunity to beautify our campus and take advocacy action around caring for the Earth.

ANTHEM

The Soil

Pax Ressler

Brian Adams, *Baritone*

The soil holds the past; It shows us where we’ve been;
The soil unfolds our history and knows where we begin.
The soil nurtures life, it grows all that we need.
The soil unfurls a mystery and sows a sacred seed.

God, let it grow in me; Send down your rain and light.
And with your help we’ll be the soil to bring the world to life.

The soil knows what will come. It’s known it all along;
The soil can hear the distant hum Of restoration’s song.
The soil contains our hope. It pushes out green shoots.
The soil proclaims the antidote, is growing deeper roots.

God, let them grow in me. Send down your rain and light.
And with your help we’ll be the soil to bring the world to life.

† DOXOLOGY #251

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

Mfurahini, Haleluya+

Christ has risen, alleluia. | Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.
For our redeemer burst from the tomb, | even from death, dispelling its gloom

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy. | Death’s fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! | Jesus is living, alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

† HYMN #713

Touch the Earth Lightly

Tenderness

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.

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!

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

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.

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

All Creatures Of Our God and King

arr. Fred Bock

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WORSHIP NOTES

Words for worship: Today's call to worship is from Creation Justice Ministries, the affirmation of faith is from *Liturgies from Below* by Claudio Carvalhaes ©2020 Abingdon Press, and the prayers of the people was written by Dr. Bill Brown, Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship at Druid Hills. We welcome their wiggles and whispers as they learn to worship with us. Parents may also drop off their Pre-K and younger kids in our nursery.

Assisted Listening Devices are available from our ushers for any worshiper who needs hearing assistance.

Interested in membership? We are so grateful for the visitors (old and new) who add to our community each week. If you are interested in learning more about what it would look like to join, it's really easy; just talk with Pastor Betsy Turner (bturner@dhpc.org). She'll answer questions you may have about DHPC or Presbyterianism, and walk you through meeting our leadership and making your spot in our family official. Just let us know if this feels like the right step for you or if you are curious to learn more.

Eco-friendly bulletin We have intentionally kept this bulletin as short as possible today, in order to use less paper on this Earth Day. As always, the bulletin is printed on recycled paper and bulletins will be recycled after today's service. Please check the weekly newsletter email for announcements and upcoming events.

Druid Hills Presbyterian Church

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