Welcome to Bethel as we celebrate Earth Day through Worship!
8:00 AM
Thank you for being here for worship!
Today, we will be focusing on God's invitation into the sacred practice of earthkeeping.
We will look at what God's Word says about all of creation and our care of it.
May God challenge, inspire, and encourage us all through our worship together today!
(* - Congregation please stand, as able)

The Welcome/Announcements

* Opening Hymn: “This Is My Father’s World” #824

* The Pastoral Greeting:
Leader: We begin today in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit…
People: We believe the Creator, the Savior, and the Sustainer of the world are here with us today. Amen!

* Litany to Consider Creation:
L: All people of the earth, of each and every nation, arise and rejoice at the continued creation of the wondrous marvel of our Living Earth!
P: …from mountain tops to the deepest sea, all wonderful earthly miracles bursting free!
L: Who despite our apparent lack of care, creates bountiful splendor for all to share…
P: …of beauty, of springtime, the yearly rebirth of our protector, our home, our own Mother Earth!
L: People are the earth, of each and every nation, arise and rejoice at the continued creation of the wondrous marvel of our Living Earth!
L: People who despite our apparent lack of care, creates bountiful splendor for all to share…
P: …from mountain tops to the deepest sea, all wonderful earthly miracles bursting free!
L: Yet this miracle of renewal requires the helping hand of the people to replenish and renew the land…
P: …from the largest of cities to the remotest farms, to unite in spirit and with the strongest arms.
L: Become a midwife to the birth of each flower, a guardian of our resources, hour by hour.
P: We must learn to take time to appreciate the miracles of which we did not create.
L: For God has given this wonderful treasure and its preservation will be the measure…
P: …of people who recognize and will celebrate the birth of each season before it's too late.
L: In citizenship, in willingness to till, we must bend our backs and tend to the soil…
P: …in stewardship, arise and applaud the worth, of the wondrous marvel of our Living Earth!
ALL: Consider creation…consider it now!

P: The Prayer of the Day:
L: Creator of the world…
P: …draw us into prayer and celebration as we gather to remember the gifts of your earth. Help us to be stewards with all that you have entrusted to us as tillers and tenders in your image. Amen.

* The Sharing of God’s Peace:
L: The peace of the Lord be with you, always…
P: …and also with you!

The Children’s Message: Pastor Alicia Hilding

Anthem: “The Pilgrim’s Psalm” Ralph Vaughan Williams
Joseph Vene, Baritone - Skip James, Pianist
“I will put on the whole armor of light, that I may be able to stand in the evil day. The shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the breast-plate of righteousness, the sword of the spirit. God girdeth me with strength of war, and maketh my way perfect. Yes, I will smite mine enemies, they shall not be able to stand, but fall under my feet. Blesst be the Lord, my strength, that teacheth my hands to war and my fingers to fight, my hope and my fortress, my castle and my deliverer, my defense in whom I trust. I will not be afraid of the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day, for thou, Lord, art my hope, Thou hast set my house of defense very high. I will go forward, valiant in fight, and put to flight the armies of evil. How that wondrous shall inherit all things.”
(Text adapted from the letters of Paul, and the book of Psalms.)

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 2:15-20 OT pg. 2
L: The Word of the Lord.
P: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 147:1-5
L: Praise the L ORD!
P: How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting!
L: The L ORD builds up Jerusalem;
P: he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
L: He heals the brokenhearted…
P: …and binds up their wounds.
L: He determines the number of the stars;
P: he gives to all of them their names.
L: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
P: his understanding is beyond measure.

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 40:25-28 OT pg. 655
L: The Word of the Lord.
P: Thanks be to God!

* The Holy Gospel: John 10:1-4 OT pg. 101

The Message: “Not Just Numbered, But Named” Pastor Alicia Hilding

* Hymn of the Day: “Now the Green Blade Rises” #379

* The Offering Prayer:
L: God, our provider…
P: …we thank you for all that you have given to us. During this time, help us to consider how we might offer our lives in service to you. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Giving our First and Best to God through our Offering

Offering Anthem: “Love Bade Me Welcome” James from “Five Mystical Songs” - Ralph Vaughan Williams
The Bethel Chorale, feat. Joseph Vene, Baritone

Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back, Guilty of dust and sin. But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack, From my first entrance in Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning, "Who made the eyes but I?" "Truth, Lord, but I have marred them: Ah, my dear, I cannot look on thee.” Love took my hand and smiling did reply, "You shall be he.” "I, the unkind, ungrateful? What made the mouth but I?" "Words, Lord, to teach thee: let my shame go where it doth deserve. “And know you not,” says Love, "who bore the blame?” "My dear, then I will serve." "You must sit down,” says Love, "and taste my meat.” So I did sit and eat.

George Herbert (1593-1633)
The Great Thanksgiving:
L: The Lord be with you...
P: ...and also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts.
P: We lift them to the Lord.
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!
P: It is right to give our thanks and praise!
L: We gather to remember Christ
through the serving of this bread and wine today.
We give thanks for the food and drink
that we have here to share with our fellow sisters and brothers.
We believe that this bread and wine holds the gift of life
that you have poured out for us.

The Words of Institution

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Distribution:
All who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome and encouraged
to join us for communion, regardless of church membership or denomination.
Children are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Communion Hymn: “For the Bread Which You Have Broken” #494

The Communion Blessing

The Prayers of God’s People:
L: Lord, in your mercy...
P: ...hear our prayer!

The Closing Blessing:

“Not Just Numbered, But Named”
CELEBRATION SERVICE
Sunday, April 19, 2015
8:00 AM
Preaching Today: Pastor Alicia Hilding