

# **EARTH DAY SUNDAY SERVICE**

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 25, 2021**

**9:00 a.m.**

*St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church*



**The Reverend Pamela M. Illick, Pastor**

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***Building Disciples ~ Growing in Faith ~ Serving in Christ's Name***

Welcome to all – especially visitors!!!

**It is no accident that you are here today!**

You are an answer to our prayer. We have been praying for you,  
and believe that God has brought you here because God wants to touch your life.

We welcome you in the name of the Risen Lord!

## PRELUDE

*Please stand.*

### THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,

✝ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere, for the Susquehanna River and the Conodoquinet and Yellow Breeches Creeks, for the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG #835 “All Creatures, Worship God Most High!” (verses 1-3)



1 All crea-tures, wor - ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and  
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the  
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor  
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,  
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in  
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:  
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -  
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:  
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## GREETING

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C:** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**P:** The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

*For drive-in worship you may flash your headlights in response!*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the

waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**C: Amen.** *For drive-in worship you may toot your car horn for "Amen".*

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING: ACTS 4:5-12 (NRSV)**

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 23 (Inclusive Bible)**

YHWH [Yahweh], you are my shepherd -  
I want nothing more.

**You let me lie down in green meadows;**  
You lead me beside restful waters:

You refresh my soul.

**You guide me to lush pastures**

**For the sake of your Name.**

Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,

I fear no danger, for you are with me.

**Your rod and your staff -**

**They give me courage.**

You spread a table for me

In the presence of my enemies,

**And you anoint my head with oil -**

**My cup overflows!**

Only goodness and love will follow me

All the days of my life,

**And I will dwell in your house, YHWH [Yahweh],**

**For days without end.**

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## **SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24 (NRSV)**

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And

by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:11-18 (NRSV)**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

Pastor Pamela M. Illick

*Please stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY #836 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**C: We believe in God who creates all things to live in harmony –  
Heaven and Earth, Sea and Sky,  
Sun and Moon, Fish and Birds,  
Mountains and Valleys, Forests and Deserts,  
All animals great and small, all human beings –  
and cares for all creation as our perfect, loving parent.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,  
Who came to reveal the depth of God's love for all creation,  
and teach us to live under God's reign of justice, mercy, and  
compassion.**

**Who suffered death on the cross to save creation from oppression,  
violence, and hatred, and free us from brokenness, sin, and self-  
conceit.**

**Who raises us with him into new life to experience joy, peace, and  
unity with God and all creation.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
Who calls, equips, empowers, and helps us to reject hatred,  
oppression, and violence against anyone,  
and to extend justice and mercy, love and compassion to all created  
things – Earth, Creatures, and Humans –  
regardless of how similar or different we are from one another.  
Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith written by the Rev. Adrienne Strehlow

## **THE PRAYERS**

**A: O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen:  
Your great love has placed us in your creation, and you commanded us  
to care for it.**

**Your works declare glory and strength, and you call us to praise and  
reverence.**

**Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us.**

Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us.

Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace.

Creator God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: As we join together in celebration of the Earth, we know that there are many things that thwart our efforts and our responsibilities to your creation. The issues of the environment and conservation are often associated with differing political views. For the openness to learn about environmental issues and concerns, we pray:

Creator God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: In such a great and complex world, we often feel so small and helpless, as if what we do has no impact on the rest of your creation. Yet we know that because we are created in your image, we are connected with the entirety of creation, just as you are. For an awareness of how our own lifestyles can be modified to help protect the environment, we pray:

Creator God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: In an environmental catastrophe, the people who suffer first and greatest are often the poorest of the poor. Yet we rarely hear their voices, silenced as they are by the realities of global life. For those who live in poverty and suffer the devastating effects of flooding, drought, and other environmental issues, we pray:

Creator God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: In recent days, even the ground under our feet has begun to tremble, reminding us that we live together in a fragile community of life. For our own community, our city and state, we pray:

Creator God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: As members of this creation, we live and die according to the cycle of life that is common in all the world. For those in our midst who suffer from sickness and death, we *especially* pray for *Dolores, Loretta, Levi, Clyde, Zelda, Jim, Ann, Katie, Kaylin, Mason, Jean, Pat, Marge and Jerry, Nicole, Arla, Claris, Barbara, Leon, Paul, Victoria, Kathy, Angelia, Pat, Mary, Gilbert, Art, Anne, Gerald and JoAnn, Kody, Joey, Frank, Teresa, Debbie, Holly, Donald, Gabriel, Doris, Brian, Richard, Jesse, Dorlene, Mike, Mandy, and those who suffer from Covid.* And those whom we name in our hearts..., we pray:

Creator God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: God of the sun and the moon of the mountains, deserts and plains;  
God of the mighty oceans, of rivers, lakes and streams;  
God of all creatures that live in the seas and fly in the air;  
God of every living thing that grows and moves on this sacred Earth,  
We are formed by Christ into your people,  
called to bring the world into your marvelous light.

As the Body of Christ, we are messengers of ecological vocation.  
We are entrusted with caring for this Earth which you have created.  
Help us to love and respect it, to repair what we have damaged,  
to care for what you have made good and holy.

Give us the wisdom and the passion to change our mind, our hearts, and our ways.

Let us be the change we pray for, bringing about ecological conversion which grows and spreads to every corner of the Earth, for our sake now and for every generation which is to come.

**C: Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **Offertory Prayer**

A: God of love,  
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.  
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.

Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;  
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.** *For drive-in worship you may share the peace by turning on your windshield wipers, your 4-way flashers and/or your headlights.*

*Please be seated.*

*At this time, take and hold your sealed container of bread and wine.*

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Blessed are you, O God,  
creator of heaven and earth.

You rescued your covenant people,  
led them on all their journeys,  
and taught them by the prophets.

You so loved the world  
that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish but may have eternal life.

In the night in which he was handed over,  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat;  
this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,  
he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink,  
saying: This cup

is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

As often as we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit  
in this meal,  
and make us one  
in this community of faith  
and with your people  
throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God,  
Author of life,  
Word made flesh,  
Power of the Most High,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Brought together by the Holy Spirit from all the spaces we are right now, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: 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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.  
*You may open and take your bread and wine now.*

## **DISTRIBUTION**

“When Long Before Time”

*Please stand.*

## **TABLE BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

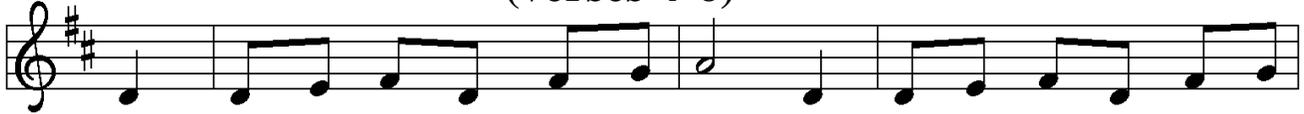
P: Wellspring of joy,  
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.  
Satisfy the hunger still around us,  
and send us as joyful witnesses,  
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN #835 “All Creatures, Worship God Most High!”  
(verses 4-6)**

# All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

(verses 4-6)



1 All crea-tures, wor - ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and  
2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad - ows, join the  
4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen - dor  
grain: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,  
throng: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in  
grieve: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur - dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:  
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:  
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
waiting to hush our final breath:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
fair is the night that leads us home.  
Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
and worship God with humble heart:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
Alleluia.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNITY TIME

### BLESSING

P: The God of all creation:

Of flowers and trees, of butterflies and bees,  
of squirrels and mountain lions,  
bless you, keep you, and strengthen you

for the work of loving all Creation.

In the name of the Creator of us all, the Risen Jesus Christ ✝ and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed!**

A: Go in peace. Care for Creation.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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Bulletins are presented to the glory of God.

### **Weekly Stewardship Snippet**

*“Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” –*

#### **1 John 3:18**

Care of God’s good creation is love in truth and action. Ponder how you might better exhibit this love through your care of our planet and all that God has created. What one small step might you take this week?

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS** – In efforts to resume some normalcy, we would like to include as many different people as we can in worship. Please help in any (or all) of the following ways:

1. Assisting Ministers
2. Lectors
3. Ushers - 2 per service to assist with directing drive-in worshippers, distribute bulletins, collect offering, etc.
4. Worship prep/take-down (for outdoor worship) – bring items from church office building to pavilion prior to worship and return after, assist with any special decorating for that Sunday, altar set-up/take-down

Communion assistants will not be needed until we resume traditional communion. Please let Pastor Pam or the church office know how you would like to be involved.

### **PICTORIAL DIRECTORY**

Please submit a family photo (and identify each person) to the church office ([stpaulsenola@yahoo.com](mailto:stpaulsenola@yahoo.com)) by May 2, along with any changes or additions to your directory information. If needed, Ann can take your photo during the morning of Friday, April 30, at the church. You do not need to schedule a time – just show up (she will be in the office). Pastor Pam will also take pictures on Sundays after worship.

## UPCOMING

### **Today after worship:**

- Please stay to make a Creation Friendly item!
- You can get a photo taken for the directory today after worship too!

**Today:** Last day for the West Shore Ministerium fundraiser at Hoss's, Enola. You must have a "coupon" to ensure your purchase will count toward the fundraiser. The coupon is good for take-out orders too! Dining opens at noon. See your newsletter or an usher for coupons.

**Tonight:** *Adult Sunday School* class at 7:00 p.m. You received information about the current topic in your email on Friday.

**April 30-May 4:** Pastor Pam will be on vacation. The Rev. Dr. Evan Houck will preach and preside on May 2. Pastoral care concerns/emergencies should be communicated to Vicki Barnhart.

**May 2:** Pictures for directory due into the church office

**May 8 & 22:** Synod Assembly Edification Days – see newsletter for more information

**May 9:** last day to RSVP for Road Rally

**May 13:** Thirsty Thursday via zoom at 7 p.m.

**May 15: Road Rally MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!** A great family + extended family outing! Stay tuned for more details!!! You won't want to miss this good time.

**May 23:** Pentecost Sunday – wear red

**May 30:** Holy Trinity Sunday and Healing Service

**PAVILION RENTALS** – The pavilion is open for your use! For organized events, you must reserve the pavilion and submit payment and a completed Pavilion Rental Agreement in advance. Both can be done through the church office. The fee for members is \$25.

**Card Shower** – Denise Casella's father, Roger Hickoff, is turning 90 on May 3. Please help shower him with cards by sending birthday wishes to him at:

Roger Hickoff  
115 High Street  
DUNCANNON, PA 17020

**The Rev. Pamela M. Illick, Pastor**  
**443-876-4736 (cell), 717-697-9675 (church phone)**  
**Pastor's email: [pam.illick@gmail.com](mailto:pam.illick@gmail.com)**  
**Find her on Facebook as Pam Illick**

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Nicholas Cekovich, Director of Music & Treasurer  
Ann Gottlieb, Office Manager

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