

**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD**

**Easter 3 - April 23, 2023**

**Earth Day Weekend**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

**We come on this weekend to remember Earth Day,**

We are grateful for this amazing planet and seek to do all we can to preserve it.

**We come to You in worship, hungering for greater understanding.**

We have come to hear the wisdom of Scripture.

**We come seeking answers to the challenges we face.**

Come, let us worship God.

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession (Together)**

**Loving God, we gather this day, united by Your Spirit to Your followers throughout all time and space. We ask that our gratitude for the earth that You have created might spill over into a greater understanding as to what we need to do to preserve the earth for generations yet to come.**

**It is amazing to remember that the stories we hear about You today, have transformed so many other lives for so many centuries. It is amazing to consider how lives not so very different from our own carried Your love from one generation to another, from one part of the earth to another. As we join together in worship, open our eyes to new opportunities to express our love and gratitude for You and in service to the earth and all its creatures and peoples, as well as to share Your love in the lives we touch; for we are so blessed to be Your people. Amen**

**HYMN: # 461 Be thou my vision**

**Prayer of Confession (Together)**

**Week by week we open our lives before you, acknowledging that we often lose track of you. We are driven and feel busy so we let other things come before You in our lives. Changes upend us and we don't know where to turn. Forgive us when we forget that you are with us day by day. Renew us in your love, we pray. Amen**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (Minister)**

Our Loving God we are aware that you forgive us for thoughts and words and deeds that dishonour You. We ask for that forgiveness now and to be renewed in heart and mind to serve You better. Amen.

**PASSING OF THE PEACE:**

**Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you**

**Congregation: And also, with you**(Please turn and greet one another)

**ANTHEM**

**A STORY FOR EARTH SUNDAY**

**HYMN: #451** Dear Father, Lord of humankind Verses 1,5,6

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Old Testament:** 1 Samuel 25: 2-35 (Page 209)

**SERMON: “An Attitude of Gratitude Heals”**

**OFFERING AND DOXOLOGY #79** -Offering brought forward  
(Your offering can be left on the plates upon entering the service.)

**Prayer of Dedication** (Together):

**Generous God, you bless us with life, purpose, and opportunities to serve in the world you love. We offer you our gifts in Christ’s name, desiring to enrich life on earth with your love. Amen**

**HYMN for Earth Day weekend: #434**

For the beauty of the earth Verses 1.2.and 5.

**PRAYERS for the Earth and its peoples**

**LORD’S PRAYER** (debts)

**HYMN: #386** Come down, O love Divine Verses 1,3, and 4

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

We are called to care for God’s creation in our daily lives: “The Earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.”

Psalm 24:1



**Commissioning For Earth Week**

Go and act, for the care of creation.  
Go and learn, for the sake of creation.  
Go and pray, for the love of creation.  
And may the care of God enfold you,  
the passion of the Risen Christ embolden you,  
and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit empower you,  
now and forever, Amen.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Supply Minister:** Rev. Dr. David Thompson

**Music Director:** Suzanne Strahan

**Treasurer:** Shannon Archer

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