

April 2024

52 Ways to Care for Creation

Week 14

Sing Hymns of Creation

Find/choose some creation-themed hymns to sing at church. Some ideas: "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and "The Ocean is a Call to Worship."

Week 15

Write To Your Elected Officials

Write to your members of congress or local elected officials, asking them to support an environmental issue that you care about. How does the issue you've chosen relate to racial justice? Include this information in your letter or email.

Week 16

Earth Day Reflection

This earth day, take a moment to reflect on this proverb: "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we have borrowed it from our children."

Week 17

Ecological Resurrection

Every ecological success is a resurrection story! Find out which animals, plants, or ecosystems have been revived after environmental degradation. For example, the Monterey Bay in California has a wonderful "resurrection" story!

Find more theological & educational resources at creationjustice.org/earth-day-library



CreationJustice.org



@CreationJustice

Worship Participants:
John Polhill, Guest Speaker
Jennifer White, Organist
Janice Moskaluk, Greeter
Eugeniu Grigorescu, Technical Director



The First Presbyterian Church

this is love

NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD

BUT THAT

HE LOVED US

1 JOHN 4:10

Berwick, PA

The Order of Worship Sunday April 28, 2024

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Berwick! We are glad that you are worshipping with us today. If you are visiting for the first time today, we invite you to sign the guest book in the back of the sanctuary or scan the QR code to fill it out digitally. Throughout the service, the People make the responses in **bold** print.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Fairest Lord Jesus with As the Deer
arr. by Anna Laura Page

*CALL TO WORSHIP (1 John 4:7-9, 13)

Beloved, let us love one another,

Because love is from God;

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent the only Son into the world so that we might live through Christ.

By this we know that we abide in God and God in us,

Because God has given us the Spirit.

Let us love one another and join in worship of our God,

For God is love.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #306 Fairest Lord Jesus

CALL TO CONFESSION

God's amazing love was, is, and always will be. God's love is infinite and unwavering. Sometimes, we fail to be the vessels of love God intends for us to be. Yet through our faith and by grace, we can come before our loving God and confess our shortcomings so that we may try again to bring love to the world that so badly needs it. Let us pray together our prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, our Redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love, through Je-

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Don't forget, men's breakfast is held **EVERY Wednesday** at 7:30am downstairs in the kitchen. All men are welcome to attend, fill up on hot cooked grub, join in fellowship and do whatever it is that men do.

BIRTHDAYS

Walt Hause

Celebrates his birthday this week!

Happy Birthday!

IN THE PULPIT

April 28 John Polhill

May 5 Sally Dries

May 12 Nancy Hardy

May 19 Steve Engelhardt

May 26 John Polhill

COMMUNION

May 19

July 14

October 6

November 24

December 24

PRAYER LIST

Wade Casaldi and family

DAngelo family

Matthew Boggs

Clio Strausser

Tom & Barb Huntington

Alison Powlus

Bob Feick Family

Pastor Steve Engelhardt

Paul Moskaluk

Nancy Raber

Matt Gabel

Martha Yost

Lauren Sadock

Joann Magners

Wilhelmina Hoover

Pass it On (It Only Takes a Spark)

¹It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it;
You spread His love to everyone;
You want to pass it on.

²What a wonderful time is spring
When all the tress are budding,
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming,
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it;
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
You want to pass it on.

³I wish for you, my friend,
This happiness that I've found,
You can depend on Him,
It matters not where you're bound.
I'll shout it from the mountain top -
I want the world to know;
The Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

Announcements

THANK YOU!

This morning we welcome back John Polhill to the pulpit. Welcome back John and thank you for leading us in worship this morning!

FAMILY BANQUET

Today is the final day to get your reservation in. Please place your slip in the offering plate or contact the office.

We hope you will join us following worship **Sunday May 5th** down stairs for our Family Banquet catered by Catering for You. Reservations are needed to secure enough food. Monetary donations will be graciously accepted.

PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY

Next Sunday, May 5th is Peanut Butter Sunday. Your donations can be dropped off in the narthex.

Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(based on Psalm 130)

(Silence for people to examine their hearts in prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READINGS Acts 8: 26-40; John 15:1-8

*GLORIA PATRI

SERMON What the World Needs Now

*HYMN #366 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

We trust in God.

In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
to bless all families of the earth.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN #484 (Red) Pass it On (It Only Takes a Spark)
vs. 1-2

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION #484 *vs. 3*

**Please stand if you are able*

Fairest Lord Jesus

¹ Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God to earth come down,
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

² Fair are the meadows,
Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

³ Fair is the sunshine,
Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

¹ Jesus, Thy boundless love to me
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to Thee,
And reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, Thine alone, I'd live,
Myself to Thee, entirely give.

² O, grant that nothing in my soul
May dwell, but Thy pure love alone;
O may Thy love possess me whole,
My joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
May every act, word, thought be love.

³ O love, how gracious is thy way!
All fear before thy presence flies;
Care, anguish, sorrow melt away,
Where'er Thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see,
Nothing desire or seek, but Thee.