

Old First Presbyterian Church

Eastertide

April 23, 2023

Worship

Call to Worship

Leader Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

People **Worship the Lord with gladness.**

Come into God's presence with singing.

Leader The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Leader Let us worship God.

Hymn 664 Morning Has Broken

1 Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation; praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors
as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.

**Assurance of
Forgiveness**

Leader Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

People **Amen.**

**Brief Statement
of Faith**

(1983) Section 3

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
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.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

Hymn 583 **Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

Hymn 715 **The Earth Belongs to God Alone**

- 1** **The earth belongs to God alone; hard clay, rich soil, fine sand.
Give thanks wherever food is grown on borrowed holy land.**
- 2** **The fertile ground through years of toil has cried for Sabbath rest—
a time of peace for worn out soil so land can be refreshed.**
- 3** **All life belongs to God alone, in wilderness and fields.
From fallow land or plowed and sown, God give the good it yields**
- 4** **Till God endows the earth once more with Eden's state of grace,
may we endeavor to restore all land as sacred space.**