THE WYOMING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



We are a caring, inclusive community that reflects God's unconditional love by putting our faith into action.

EARTH DAY & CLIMATE ACTION



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

5th Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024



Worshiping God and Serving the Community Since 1873

Worship This Morning

We welcome everyone to worship on this Lord's Day.

If you are visiting us for the first time, we're so glad that you're here.

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Heather after the service.

If you are interested in receiving more information about WPC, please contact Pastor Heather at hbrannon@wyomingpresbyterian.org

PARKING: Please do not park in front of the sanctuary doors on Wyoming Ave. If you can, please park on Linden Street to help those who have physical limitations and cannot walk long distances. Thanks for your hospitality!

GRATITUDE: We give thanks for those who have participated in worship.

• Musicians: Rachel Jufer

AV Recording Staff

• Deacon of the Week Greeter and Ushers

• Communion Preparers and Servers

SHARING OUR GIFTS: Please visit our online offering plate at wyomingpresbyterian.org/giving or send a check to Wyoming Presbyterian Church, 432 Wyoming Ave., Millburn, NJ 07041. Thank you for your generosity and participation in the life of our community.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Nursery: Families are invited to use our nursery space if your children need a break from worship, diaper change, etc. To find the nursery, exit the front of the sanctuary and turn right down the hallway. The nursery is next to the gender neutral bathroom.

PRAYGROUND: All children and their families are invited to worship in this fun space.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Visit the Busy Box in the Narthex for fun activities to do during worship.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: Join us for Sunday School with our Director of Family Ministries, Tracy Policastro, after the Children's Message, for toddler–8th grade. Pick up in Fellowship Hall following worship.

The Wyoming Presbyterian Church Service for the Lord's Day 5th Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024 10:00 A.M.

Preparing For Worship

"I will properly appreciate the sun, the moon, the stars, trees, apples, as I reflect that he is Lord over all things...

God writes the Gospel, not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars."

—Martin Luther (1483–1546)

PRELUDE/PROCESSIONAL

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Nicaea, arr. Lani Smith

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Earth Day & Climate Action Update
Mission May

Doug Olson
Debbie Jacoby

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

*Call To Worship

One: Let us worship God together. Let us sing to the Lord a new song; A song for and with all the

creatures of the earth.

Many: Let us rejoice in what God has created. It is good!

One: Let us marvel at the creatures that are wonderful in God's sight.

Many: Let us extol God's handiwork.

One: Let us wonder and stand in awe at the richness of the world before us. Many: Let every creature gives you praise. Let us now worship God!

*OPENING PRAYER

*OPENING HYMN, PH #455 "All Creatures of Our God and King" vs. 1–4 Lasst Uns Erfreuen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE "Happy Birthday, Dear Wyoming!"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader:

We have forgotten who we are.

We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos.

We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

Response: We have forgotten who we are.

Leader:

We have sought only our own security.

We have exploited simply for our own ends.

We have distorted our knowledge.

We have abused our power.

Response: We have forgotten who we are.

Leader:

Now the land is barren.

And the waters are poisoned.

And the air is polluted.

Response: We have forgotten who we are.

Leader:

Now the forests are dying,

And the creatures are disappearing,

And humans are despairing.

Response: We have forgotten who we are.

Everyone:

Creator God,

We ask for forgiveness.

We ask for the gift of remembering.

We ask for the strength and courage to change.

We commit to be responsible stewards of your creation.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*Passing Of The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

*Easter Alleluia, PH #108

Christ is alive and comes to bring, Good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring. With joy, with justice, love, and praise

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 1:1–2;4a p. 1

SERMON "In the beginning..." Rev. Heather Brannon

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Affirmation of Faith (Responsive)

A Declaration of Faith (1977)

One: We acknowledge one God alone, whose demands on us are absolute, whose help for us is sufficient.

All: That One is the Lord, whom we worship, serve, and love.

One: We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell. The story itself tells us God works the divine, sovereign will among all peoples of the earth.

All: We believe God works beyond our imagining throughout the universe.

One: We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help.

All: We must not yield unconditional obedience to any other power.

One: We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God.

All: To worship God is highest joy. To serve God is perfect freedom. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

(Moment of Silent Prayer)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation To The Offering

You may also participate in the offering by using our online offering plate at wyomingpresbyterian. org/giving or by mailing your gift to the church at 432 Wyoming Ave., Millburn, NJ 07041.

OFFERTORY

"You Raise Me Up"

Graham/Lovland

When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary.
When troubles come and my heart burdened be,
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence,
Until You come and sit awhile with me.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains, You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas. I am strong, when I am on your shoulders, You raise me up to more than I can be.

There is no life, no life without its hunger, Each restless heart beats so imperfectly. But when you come and I am filled with wonder, Sometimes I think I glimpse eternity.

INCLUSIVE DOXOLOGY, #591

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN, PH #293

"This is My Father's World"

Terra Beata

*Charge & Benediction

*CHORAL AMEN, PH#586

Danish

*Postlude

"Marching to Zion"

Garrett Parker

You are now entering the mission field. May the peace of Christ be with you.

*You are invited to rise in body or in spirit.

LITURGY: The Call to Worship was adapted from "Care for God's Creatures," Creation Justice Ministries (2016). The Confession was adapted from *Interfaith Declarations and Worship Observance Resources; The North American Conference on Religion and Ecology* (1990).

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A Declaration of Faith* (1977) was written in response to the eventual merger between the northern United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and southern Presbyterian Church in the United States in 1983. At the time, this statement was controversial to conservative Presbyterians because it reflected a God that is compassionate and ineffable, in contrast to a previous emphasis on a God of power and judgment.

GRATITUDE: Thanks be to God for all who made our second annual Earth Day and Climate Action event a success! We are especially grateful for Doug Olson and the Mission Committee for their hard work and dedication.

JOIN US AFTER WORSHIP: Children and Youth 150th Anniversary Art Installation Dedication. Join us for a prayer of thanksgiving in the pollinator garden to dedicate the beautiful mosaic stepstones that are made with love by our wonderful Sunday School class!

STAY TUNED for upcoming special 150th anniversary Sundays this Fall. See the insert for more details. See the weekly newsletter for details.

THE WYOMING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 432 WYOMING AVENUE | MILLBURN, NJ 07041 (973) 376-3066 | www.wyomingpresbyterian.org

Pastor & Head of Staff: The Rev. Heather Brannon

Music Director: Steven Shellman | Children's Choir Director: Ebony Wiggins

Director of Family Ministries: Tracy Policastro

Church Administrator: Marilyn Gonzalez | Sexton: Erick Dolansky Director of Open Door Nursery School: Alethea Randazza