

A CHORAL CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY
and GOD'S CREATION:
"AND IT WAS GOOD!"



Sunday, 25 April 2010
6:00^{pm}

The Choirs of Christ Presbyterian Church in Canton
Chancel Choir
Youth Choir
Choristers of Christ Church

Holy Scripture from *The Message* by Eugene H. Peterson
"The Seven-Versed Song of Creation" – a poem by John Bell (Iona Community)

Images of Earth Projected for Meditation

Song of Solomon 2:10-17 ("The Message")

All are invited to stand and join the choirs in singing:

*Hymn No. **464**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

HYMN TO JOY

Reading:

We join the Earth and with each other
to bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air.
We join the Earth and with each other
to renew the forests, to care for the plants, to protect the creatures,
We join the Earth and with each other
to celebrate the seas, to rejoice in the sunlight, to sing the song of the stars,
We join the Earth and with each other
to re-create the human community, to promote justice and peace,
to remember our children.
We join the Earth and with each other:
We join together as many diverse expressions of one loving Mystery
for the healing of the Earth and the renewal of all life.

— *United Nations Environmental Sabbath Program*

Anthem: "We Belong to the Earth"

Anne C. Wilson

*This work commissioned by the Ohio Boychoir in 2008.
The composer requests images of earth to be projected during the performance.*

Prayer of Invocation for Holy Spirit:

One: Great Spirit, whose dry lands thirst, help us to find the way to refresh your lands.

ALL: We pray for your power to refresh your lands.

One: Great Spirit, whose waters are choked with debris and pollution, help us to find the way to cleanse your waters.

ALL: We pray for your knowledge to find the way to cleanse the waters.

One: Great Spirit, whose beautiful earth grows ugly with misuse, help us to find the way to restore beauty to your handiwork.

ALL: We pray for your strength to restore the beauty of your handiwork.

One: Great Spirit, whose creatures are being destroyed, help us to find a way to replenish them.

ALL: We pray for your power to replenish the earth.

One: Great Spirit, whose gifts to us are being lost in selfishness and corruption, help us to find the way to restore our humanity.

ALL: We pray for your wisdom to find the way to restore our humanity.

— *United Nations Environmental Sabbath Program*

Anthem: *Gloria in excelsis*

Johann Sebastian Bach; arr., Hal H. Hopson

Song: “Here Comes the Sun” (1969)

George Harrison; arr., Mac Huff

DAY ONE – *Light . . . Day and Night; Night and Day*

Genesis 1:1-5 (“The Message”)

Psalms 19:1-4 Chorus from *The Creation*

Franz Joseph Haydn

Verse 1 (“The Seven-Versed Song of Creation” by John Bell)

Anthem: “The Canticle of Brother Sun” (1996)

Grayston Ives

DAY TWO – *Sky, Waters, Heavens*

Genesis 1:6-8

Anthem: “Let the Whole Creation Cry” (1971)

Robert Leaf

Verse 2 (Bell)

All are invited to stand and join the choirs in singing:

*Hymn No. **268** “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

HOLY MANNA

DAY THREE – *Separate: Ocean, Land, Greening!*

Genesis 1:9-13

Anthem: “All Things Bright and Beautiful” (1975)

Michael McCabe

Verse 3 (Bell)

Anthem: “For the Beauty of the Earth” (2001)

Andrew Carter

DAY FOUR – *Sky Lights*

Genesis 1:14-19

Hymn No. **486** – Stanzas 1 & 4: “When the Morning Stars Together” *WEISSE FLAGGEN*

Verse 4 (Bell)

Hymn No. **134** “Creating God, Your Fingers Trace” *HANCOCK*
Stanzas 1-2 sung by the choirs; congregation is invited to join in singing stanzas 3 & 4.

DAY FIVE – *Swarming: Ocean and Air*

Genesis 1:20-23

Organ Meditation: on Hymn No. 469 “Bunessan” Keith Kolander

Verse 5 (Bell)

Organ Meditation: on Hymn No. 469 “Bunessan” Richard Proulx

DAY SIX – *Generate Earth Life*

Genesis 1:24-31

Canticle: from *Benedicite* No. 4 (1991) Andrew Carter

Verse 6 (Bell)

Recitative and Chorus: from *The Creation* Franz Joseph Haydn

DAY SEVEN – *Sabbatical and Rest*

Genesis 2:1-4

Psalm 67 (1981) William Mathias

Verse 7 (Bell)

Silence

“The seventh day is hugely practical. It’s a sabbatical for God and all that God has made.
..... that’s what God said.”

Reading *(by all in unison)*

We need to rest and allow the earth to rest. We need to reflect and to rediscover the mystery that lives in us, that is the ground of every unique expression of life, the source of the fascination that calls all things to communion.

We declare a Sabbath, a space of quiet for simply being and letting be, for recovering the great, forgotten truths, for learning how to live again.

— *United Nations Environmental Sabbath Program*

Benediction

After the choirs have exited, the audience is invited to remain for meditation or depart.
Free-will offering received at the exits.

Organ Voluntary

“The Peace May Be Exchanged” from *Rubrics*

Dan Locklair

For Personal Meditation:

Almighty God,
in giving us dominion over things on earth,
you made us co-workers in your creation.
Give us wisdom and reverence
to use the resources of nature,
so that no one may suffer from our abuse of them,
and that generations yet to come
may continue to praise you for your bounty;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



PARTICIPANTS

READERS:

Dottie McGrew: poetry of John Bell
The Rev. David L. deVries, *Pastor* & Jeannie deVries
The Rev. Wendy L. Bausman, *Assoc. Pastor*
Members of the Choirs

SOLOISTS:

Cathy Dillon, *soprano* † Loren Souers, *tenor* † Charles Reiman, *bass*

INSTRUMENTALISTS:

Eleanor Kear, *pianist* † Marilou Berg, *organist*
Dianne Williams, *flutist* † Brandon Engler, *clarinetist*
David J. Kienzle, *conductor and organist*
Daniel Clark, *guest conductor*

SOUND & PROJECTION:

Adam George † Don Renninger