



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
April 25, 2021

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH and EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

Service of Worship 10:00 am



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

(Let the notes of our Opening Voluntaries be the musical curtain through which we pass as we gather to worship together. Let the preparation we make together be prayerful.)

Opening Voluntaries

Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953)

For the Beauty of Each Hour
Like the First Bird

Welcome

Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Watershed Acknowledgment and Land Acknowledgment

Kathleen Moore

Although the people assembled virtually here this morning are in widely dispersed locations, the Emmanuel Baptist and Westminster Presbyterian church buildings are bound together by their physical location in the watershed of the lower Hudson River. We acknowledge that the watershed where we reside is the fundamental ecological grounding for concern about Creation.

We also acknowledge that our two churches are located on the ancestral lands of the Mahican peoples. The Mahican people were forcibly removed from their homelands in the Hudson and Housatonic River Valleys but still exist today as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, a federally-recognized Tribal Nation headquartered in Wisconsin. We honor and respect the many diverse indigenous peoples still connected to this land on which we gather. We are grateful to those who lived here before us. We carry responsibility for those who will live here in the future.

Time with Children

Video of "Earth and All Kin" by Leah Schade, introduced by Kathy Donley

Call to Worship

Nancy Ost and Nancy Horan

Come, worship the God of all Creation.

**We gather to praise the Creator, the continuous source of
all living things.**

Come, worship our God who breathes life into being.

**We praise the Creator who fashions the forests, whose
trees clean the air of this world.**

Come, worship our God who forms life out of soil.

We praise the Creator whose land brings nourishment.

Come, worship our God who receives our lament in the
wilderness.

**We praise the Creator whose Son brings healing to all
Creation.**

Come, worship our God who sends waters flowing with life.

**We praise the Creator whose baptism unites us to be one in
the Body of Christ with all Creation.**



Opening Hymn #36

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

AR HYD Y NOS

Call to Confession

Mabel McGraw

We confess now the ways in which we have become separated from the Creator and God's intentions
for God's Creation.

Prayer of Confession

"We Have Forgotten Who We Are" from the UN Environmental Sabbath Program
read by Mabel McGraw and Mark Chaffin

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.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought only our security
We have exploited simply for our own ends
We have distorted our knowledge
We have abused our power.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the land is barren
And the waters are poisoned
And the air is polluted.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the forests are dying
And creatures are disappearing
And humans are despairing.

We have forgotten who we are.

We ask forgiveness.
We ask for the gift of remembering.
We ask for the strength to change.

Kyrie

Susan Fedak, *mezzo-soprano*

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Declaration of Forgiveness

led by Mark Chaffin

God is in the process of reconciling *all* of creation,
including humanity, to God's Self.

Take heed of this process.

Believe that our God is a merciful God
who forgives us our forgetfulness,
opens our minds to new beginnings

and loves us unconditionally.
Go forth and remember who you are, a child of God who is forgiven.

Passing The Peace

Introduced by Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Susan Schell

Living God, with joy we celebrate
the presence of your risen Word.
Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit
so that we may proclaim the good news
of eternal and abundant life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Scripture Lesson

Genesis 41:53-42:5

Susan Schell



Hymn #435

"There's a Wideness In God's Mercy"

IN BABILONE

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Kathy Donley

Prayers for the People and the Earth

Paul Randall

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.**

Sung Response

"Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

The Emmanuel Baptist Choir

Scripture Lesson

Luke 9:51-58

read by Rev. Dr. Leah Schade

Sermon

"Climate Migration: How Should the Church Respond?"

Rev. Dr. Leah Schade

Choral Anthem

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

EBC Choir, directed by Michael Clement

Moment for Mission

Albany Crop Walk

Nancy Ost



Call to the Offering

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #713

"Touch the Earth Lightly"

TENDERNESS

Charge and Benediction

Merger Poem, by Judy Chicago

Led by Cassandra Paul

And then all that has divided us will merge

And then compassion will be wedded to power
And then softness will come to a world that is harsh and unkind

And both men and women will be gentle
And then both women and men will be strong

And then no person will be subject to another's will
And then all will be rich and free and varied

And the greed of some will give way to the needs of many
And then all will share equally in the earth's abundance

And then all will care for the sick and the weak and the old
And then all will nourish the young

And then all will cherish life's creatures
And then all will live in harmony with each other and the earth

And then everywhere shall be called Eden once again

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Closing Voluntary

O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Carl G. Glaser, arranged by
Bernadine Johnson

Community Celebrations



We welcome our guest preacher this morning, The Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade. She is Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky. An ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America since 2000, Leah has written several books focusing on environment and faith, including [*Creation-Crisis Preaching: Ecology, Theology, and the Pulpit*](#) (Chalice Press, 2015); and [*Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis*](#), co-edited with Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, with essays from a cross-section of faith leaders and activists offering their spiritual wisdom and energy for facing the difficult days ahead (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019). She has also written a Creation-centered Lenten devotional, [*For the Beauty of the Earth*](#) (Chalice Press, 2019). Leah has served as an anti-fracking and climate activist, community organizer, and advocate for environmental justice issues. She is also the "EcoPreacher" blogger for Patheos.com: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/ecopreacher/>, and serves as the

theologian-in-residence for the Northern Illinois Synod (ELCA) Creation Care Committee in developing liturgical and preaching resources for the Season of Creation.

Please stay for our “Second Hour” conversation with Rev. Schade:

“Beyond ‘Creation Care’: Clarity, Compassion, and Commitment”

For many years, religious environmental activists used the term “Creation Care” to instill a sense of moral and ethical responsibility around ecological issues. Rev. Dr. Leah Schade will make the case that we need to expand and deepen our understanding of the phrase “Creation Care” so that it conveys the urgency needed to *act* on what is happening. She will propose adding three other alliterative phrases: Creation Clarity, Creation Compassion, and Creation Commitment, and will explore what they might entail for the church responding to the climate crisis.

FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry: For April, Westminster is asked to donate deodorant and razors. Until further notice, please email office@wpcalbany.org to arrange to drop off your donation.

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