



**RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SUNDAY APRIL 26, 2020  
3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER  
EARTH DAY WORSHIP**

Good Morning! We're delighted that you are joining us today. We thank God for the gift of technology and the ability to worship together even when we are apart. **Let us know you worshiped with us today by filling out the Friendship Form located on our website WORSHIP page [www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org).**

If you are joining in via Facebook, please leave us a comment and don't forget to keep checking our various social media outlets for up-to-date information.

**Mission Statement**

**Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community that accepts and embraces all God's children.**

# GATHERING

## OPENING HYMN

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

### 15 All Creatures of Our God and King

*Unison*



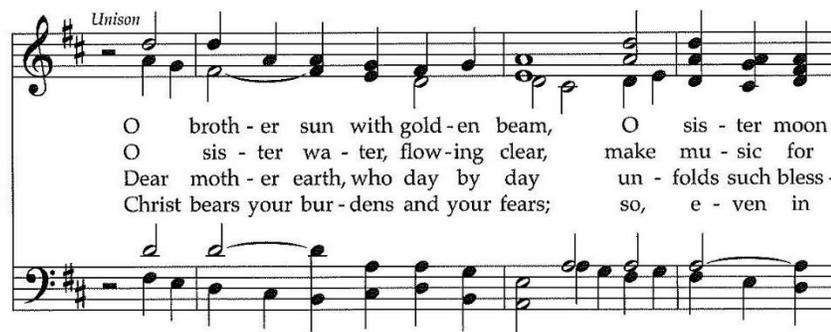
1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice  
2 O broth-er wind with clouds and rain, you nur-ture gifts  
3 O broth-er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad-  
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain

*Harmony*



and with us sing, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!  
of fruit and grain. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!  
ows of the night. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!  
or sor-row grieve, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

*Unison*



O broth-er sun with gold-en beam, O sis-ter moon  
O sis-ter wa-ter, flow-ing clear, make mu-sic for  
Dear moth-er earth, who day by day un-folds such bless-  
Christ bears your bur-dens and your fears; so, e-ven in

Sometimes called "The Canticle of the Sun," this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this broad, repetitive melody with interspersed "Alleluias."

TEXT: Francis of Assisi, 1225; trans. composite  
MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623, alt.; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
LM with alleluias  
(this tune in a higher key, 327)

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

*Harmony*

with sil - ver gleam, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!  
your Lord to hear. Sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!  
ings on our way, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!  
the midst of tears, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Unison*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
waiting to hush our final breath:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
fair is the night that leads us home.  
Sing praises! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
and worship God with humble heart.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
Sing praises! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR AND WELCOMING THE LIGHT**

**GREETINGS**

**Rev. Martha M. Shiverick**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, let us dwell in God's shelter. Let us dwell in God's work of art.

**All: Come, because the earth is the Lord's, and God's earth is our home.**

One: We live in God's world, we are not alone. We share this life with the heavens and the earth,

**All: With the waters and the land,**

One: With the trees and the grasses,

**All: With fish, birds, and animals,**

One: with minerals and creatures of every form,

**All: And with all of our siblings.**

One: God is good and everything God makes is good.

**All: God is love and everything God makes is love's fruit.**

One: Let us worship God!

## **OPENING PRAYER**

**Janet Peterson**

*(A Sioux Prayer from Chief Yellow Lark (1887))*

O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds,

Whose breath gives life to the world, hear me.

I come to you as one of your many children.

I am small and weak.

I need your strength and wisdom.

May I walk in beauty.

Make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made,  
and my ears sharp to your voice.

Make me wise, so that I may know the things you have taught your children,  
The lessons you have written on every leaf and rock.

Make me strong, Not to be superior to my siblings,  
But to fight my greatest enemy: myself.

Make me ever ready to come to you with straight eyes,  
So that when life fades as the fading sunlight,

May my spirit come to you without shame.

**Amen.**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

**Karen Collier**

We are a part of God's creation of the earth and all living things and have been given the occupation and role of being stewards of it. But at times we forget we are a servant people and neglect our role in stewardship. Let us together confess our sins before God and each other:

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION unison**

**Our beautiful blue and green home is an awesome, awesome gift. Yet we trade clean air for the power of convenience, clean water for easy waste disposal, and wilderness for elbowroom. We marvel more at our inventions than over your creations. Share your wisdom and teach us how to protect the best, and restore your rivers and mountains, seas and prairies, wetlands and forests. Guide us in living sustainably, being satisfied that enough is enough and not to consume more than we need. Guide us to repair and replace your Very Good Creation: our habitat, climate, and food web. Send your spirit over the waters again; stir us to action, justice, and wise choices. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on Psalm 23:1-3, 6)**

**One: God leads us besides still waters and restores our souls. God leads us on righteous paths.**

**All: Surely Goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the theatre of God's creation.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Dr. Neddy Astudillo**

## **CHORAL ANTHEM For The Beauty Of The Earth**

## **THE WORD**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

You are the living God who sustains all life in continuing unfolding ways. And now may we open our ears to your continuing unfolding Word. You speak to us in new, vital, and imperative ways. With all the power you have given us, let us be silent and open to listening... to comfort and to challenge us and to call us to a new focus. **Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE**

**John 3:16a**

### **SERMON For God so Loved The World**

**Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo**

**Eco-theologian Latin America Director of GreenFaith**

### **VIDEO MONTAGE All Things Bright and Beautiful**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH unison**

**Barbara Overton**

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

### **Earth Care Congregation Pledge**

**Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation.**

**Our education will encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation.**

**Our facilities will be managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all creation.**

**Our outreach will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.**

## RESPONSE

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Michele Ready**

*(From the papal letter Laudato Si)*

#### **A prayer for our earth:**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with the peace that we may live as siblings harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love, and peace.

We pray all this in Christ's name who also taught us when we prayed to pray in this manner:

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER unison**

*(From New Zealand Prayer Book)*

#### **Eternal Spirit**

**Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
source of all that is and that shall be,  
Parent of us all.**

**Loving God, in whom is heaven,**

**The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and  
come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that  
is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CALL TO OFFERING**

God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity in creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, and the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit! God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that blesses others through sharing our love, our talents, and our material possessions. Let us rejoice now in what we have been given and in what is ours to give as we give our morning offering.

### **INVITATION TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

#### **The Act of Gratitude**

- 1. You may donate today via credit/debit card by visiting our website at [www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org) and clicking on the GIVE button**
  - 2. You may download the free Give+ app (iOS & Android)**
  - 3. You may consider setting up online payment via your bank bill pay program.**
  - 4. You may also mail in your check to the church at Riviera Presbyterian Church at 5275 Sunset Drive, Miami FL 33143**
- If you are a member of another church, please donate to them during this time.*

## DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, ye hosts in heaven above;  
Praise God, the Trinity of Love. Amen.*

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Dr. Neddy Astudillo

## CLOSING HYMN

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

### 22 God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the  
2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the  
3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the  
4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the  
5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the  
6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe  
trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe  
emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace  
prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care  
prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love  
lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy



How does the crea - ture say Praise  
How does the crea - ture cry Save  
How does the crea - ture say Thanks  
How does the crea - ture say Life  
How does the crea - ture say Peace  
How do your chil - dren say Home

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

TEXT: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983  
MUSIC: Carl F. Schalk, 1983  
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House  
Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

ROEDER  
9.6.7.7

Don't forget to fill out the Friendship Form on our website or leave us a comment on Facebook so we know you worship with us today. Please include any prayer requests you have which will be sent to our pastoral care team.



Grab a cup of coffee and join us after the worship service on Zoom Holy Grounds for conversation with Dr. Astudillo as well as the chance to connect with others in the Riviera church family.



**Riviera's Food Pantry Ministry** will be distributing food on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am – 12:00noon on the east entrance of the sanctuary.

**If you would like to shop for the food pantry the following items are desperately needed: cereal or granola bars, tuna, canned veggies and soups.**

Please, NO condiments at this time.

Donations can be dropped off at the church Fellowship Hall doors on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. If you are ordering the food to be delivered please schedule them for Tuesdays or Thursdays.

--Thank you.