The Second Sunday of Eastertide:
April 19, 2020
Earth Sunday

Observing 50 years of Earth Day
The Second Sunday of Easter  
April 19, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome

The Reverend Christopher Wendell

Opening Hymn: Morning Has Broken  
See page 12 of this booklet

The Word of God

Easter Acclamation and Response

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Collect for Purity (said by all)  
BCP 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria S 280  
R. Powell

S 280  
Gloria to God  Gloria in excelsis

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1957)
Prayer of the Day
Just as the Risen Jesus appeared to his disciples still bearing the scars of his wounds—our world appears to us bearing both the scars of its wounds and the possibility of transformed new life. We are called to care for creation in its beauty and in its wounded-ness. The resurrection of Jesus offers hope of new life, for all of creation, and for generations to come. God of creation, fill us with this hope, for in our brokenness we can do nothing apart from you, but only through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for St. Paul’s (said by all)
Ever-loving and nurturing God, who has called everyone into community: Grant that St. Paul’s may continue to be a place of welcome, comfort, challenge, and strength; give us courage and compassion as we grow; and keep us always in relationship with you and with one another. All this we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ 

‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 16

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; * I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *upon those who are noble among the people.

3 But those who run after other gods * shall have their trouble multiplied.

4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, * nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

5 O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; * it is you who uphold my lot.

6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; * indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

7 I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; * my heart teaches me, night after night.

8 I have set the LORD always before me; * because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; * my body also shall rest in hope.

10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, * nor let your holy one see the Pit.

11 You will show me the path of life; * in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.
Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire- -may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn: Let all things now living
See page 13 of this booklet

The Gospel: John 20:19-31

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.
People: Glory to you, O Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the religious authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Mr. David McGee
Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
hel suffereul death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People for Earth Day

The leader and people pray responsively.

The prayers of the people this morning are creation-care themed, and come to us from the Anglican Church of Australia. Please respond to each petition with, “Hear our prayer.”

Bless the garden of your Church, O God. Guide those who plant and tend it.
Protect the young, strengthen the flourishing, and make us fruitful in ministry and mission.

God of grace, hear our prayer.
Bless the gardens of the world, the soil and rain and sunshine, and the work of all who sow and reap. Give abundant harvests, and teach us to share them with justice.

   God of grace, hear our prayer.

Bless the gardens of our community, the shelter of families, and the fragrance of friendship. In all our care for one another, make us grow in wisdom and love, in gentleness, kindness and truth.

   God of grace, hear our prayer.

Give tender care to all who are struggling through weakness, sickness, grief or change, especially those on our parish prayer list, and those whom we now name silently or aloud (pause). Show us your grace at work in the times when growth is painful or when death is near.

   God of grace, hear our prayer.

Give eternal life through Jesus Christ to all whom you love, especially Lisa Hafer and all those we now name, silently or aloud. Give us grace to abide in Christ, the true vine, and bring us at last with all your saints into resurrection life.

   God of grace, hear our prayer.

(The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.)

Observance of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day

This year, marks the 50th anniversary of our global observance of Earth Day. First celebrated in April of 1970, Earth Day was born out of the environmental movement sparked by the publication of Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" and her other writings. In the past half-century, despite persistent setbacks, each decade has also seen important progress towards more faithfully caring for this fragile planet, our island home. For each decade, we note a sign of hope, and light a candle in thanksgiving for the work of legislators, activists, business leaders, and ordinary people, who took brave steps.

The 1970s -- The Environmental Protection Act and the Clean Water Act become law, the primary legislation governing pollution of the environment and waterways.

The 1980s -- The Montreal Protocol is signed by the United States, Japan, Canada and 21 other countries, agreeing to phase out ozone-depleting CFCs by the year 2000. A Gallup poll finds that 76% of Americans call themselves environmentalists.

The 1990s -- The Basel Convention, banning international shipments of hazardous waste from developed to developing nations is signed, linking the environmental movement to concerns of social and economic justice.

The 2000s -- Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to the environmentalist and human rights campaigner Wangari Maathai, Kenya's Deputy Environmental Ministry, who led a movement to plant over 10 million trees across Africa.

The 2010s -- Pope Francis issues an environmental encyclical, "Laudito Si" calling for environmental justice an dialogue in the international community. It is read by people of faith and others around the world.
As we look ahead to the coming decade of the environmental movement, we give thanks for these signs of hope, amidst the knowledge that we have so much further still to travel in our journey to live in harmony with all Creation.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.
People: And also with you.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Hymn: For the beauty of the earth

Doxology – 380 (verse 3) 

The Lord be with you
and also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish.

You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky, everything that gives us light, light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds. You give us the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, and every plant and tree; the life that sleeps in the winter earth, and awakens again in the spring. You give us your love, even when things go wrong. Jesus knew hurt and pain. Through him you wipe away our tears, and fill us with your peace. You give us happy times and things to celebrate. In these we taste your kingdom, a feast for all your children.

You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:

Sanctus: S125

Richard Proulx

Setting: From A Community Mass; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)
We thank you loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.' After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my blood, poured out for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Savior.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. And now with all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, now and forever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

| Our Father, who art in heaven,   | as we forgive those   |
| hallowed be thy Name,           | who trespass against us. |
| thy kingdom come, thy will be done, | And lead us not into temptation, |
| on earth as it is in heaven.    | but deliver us from evil. |
| Give us this day our daily bread. | For thine is the kingdom, |
| And forgive us our trespasses,  | and the power, and the glory, |
|                                | for ever and ever. Amen. |

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem S154

The Holy Eucharist

S 154

Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover

Setting: From New Plainsong; David Hurd (b. 1956)
Celebrant  The Gifts of God for the People of God. Receive them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. This is God’s table; all are welcome.

Prayer at Communion

In this most unusual time, access to the consecrated elements is not possible for many of us. After careful thought and prayer, some presiding clergy have decided to abstain from receiving along with the community, while others have chosen to receive the elements on the community’s behalf. Following the consecration of the elements, our clergy will invite you to join in saying the following prayer on behalf of all those without access to the sacrament.

Celebrant and People:

Jesus, who lights our way and opens our hearts,
we thank you for the continued courage to follow your love,
which calls us at this time to a physical distance from one another
and to abstain from this holy meal.
We know you are truly present in this sacrament of bread and wine.
As we cannot now receive you sacramentally,
we ask you to come into our hearts spiritually.
Unite us to you, that we might be filled with your empowering love
until the Bread of Heaven and Cup of Salvation
may, again, be ours.  Amen.

Music at Communion

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord.  Amen.

The Easter Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the everlasting covenant, make your spirit whole and complete, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Dismissal

Minister  Let us go forth in the name of the risen Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!
People  Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude
Announcements

Thank you for tuning into our Live Streaming worship. Please join us for virtual coffee hour on Zoom – click on the link below!

https://zoom.us/j/902554111?pwd=RkYxbVVvYWZRZTVNDEydzI1dS9Idz09

Because the church building is not open, if you want to add someone to the prayer list, please email Marge by Wednesday at noon for it to be included in the leaflet. (info@stpaulsbedford.org).

In these difficult times, please know that your clergy are available for prayer and pastoral conversation via phone or video chat. The best way to reach us is to email to schedule an appointment.

If you are self-quarantined and need assistance with grocery shopping or other errands, please contact our Inreach Chair, Brenda Kenahan for assistance at BedfordBrenda@gmail.com.

Observe Earth Week, watch a movie! *The Human Element*, is available for live streaming all week, if you preregister here: https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/2020/01/the-human-element/. The Green Team has scheduled two zoom groups (Apr 26 at 3:30 and Apr 27 at 7pm) to discuss it. Email SueSwanson2003@gmail.com for the links, or check next Sunday’s leaflet.
Morning has broken

Unison or harmony

1 Morning has broken like the first morning,
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun-lit from heaven,
3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning

black-bird has spoken like the first bird.
like the first dew fall on the first grass.
born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Praise with elaboration, praise every morning,

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.
God's recreation, of the new day!

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), alt.
Music: Bunessan, Gaelic melody; harm. Alec Wyton (b. 1921)
Let All Things Now Living

Katherine K. Davis

1. Let all things now living
   A song of thanks-giving

   To God our Creator triumphant ly raise;
   The sun in its orbit obediently shine,

   Who fashioned and made us,
   Protect ed and stayed us,

   By guiding us on to the end of our days.
   The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.

   God's banners are o'er us,
   Pure light goes before us,

   A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
   With glad adora tion, a song let us raise:

   Till shadows have vanished
   And darkness is banished,

   As forward we travel from light into Light.
   To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

2. His law he en forces, The stars in their courses,

   The hills and the mountains, The rivers, and fountains,

   The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.

   A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
   With glad adoration, a song let us raise:

   Till shadows have vanished
   And darkness is banished,

   As forward we travel from light into Light.
   To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.
1. For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Words: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt.
Music: Dix, melody Conrad Kocher (1786-1872); arr. William Henry Monk (1823-1889);
harm. The English Hymnal, 1906

77. 77. 77
Please remember in your prayers

Amanda
Ben
Evelyn Bennett
Eda Caldeira
Mary Ellen Driscoll
John Drover
Greg
Carol Grof
Lauren Hamill
Meghan Clarke
Hicking
Louise Hoyle
Jacki
Jeff
Jim
John S.
Keith
Lorraine Lally
Kim Lehner
Leigh
Fredrica
Tom Maxwell
Delight McColl
Linda Moosick
Mehmet Mustafa
Nick
Meghan & Samantha O.
Tamie Olson
Margaret & Bethany Pico
Terry Proulx
Debbie Sacks
Marybeth Schaffner
Hitesh Shroff
Chance Smith
Hillary Taylor
Teryl L.
Denise Testa
TJ
David Walden
Paul White
Lawrence Wylie

And give thanks for the life of
Lisa Hafer

Worship Ministers at St. Paul's Today

Lector: David McGee and Karen Monroe
Webstream: Amy McGlothlin

Welcome
A warm welcome to visitors and people new to St. Paul's the area who are worshipping with us today. St. Paul's is an open and inviting church community. If you have questions about St. Paul's, please email Rev. Chris at:

chris@stpaulsbedford.org.

The Reverend Christopher S. Wendell, Rector
The Reverend Rachel Wildman, Assistant Rector
Michael Monroe, Music Minister
Marge Heekman, Parish Administrator
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
Web Site: www.stpaulsbedford.org
E-mail address: info@stpaulsbedford.org