

Welcome to

First Mennonite Church


Denver, CO



Earth Day

April 24, 2022

*That you may know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

We invite you to join the congregation in singing the songs marked with .

Entering Worship

Pre-Service Music

“Elegy for the Arctic” by Ludovico Einaudi

Welcome & Announcements

Planets Humming as They Wander **Voices Together 175**

Vs 1 Planets humming as they wander, stars aflame with silent song:
galaxies that spin on, endless; melodies afar but strong.
God’s creation tunes its carol, far beyond our mortal gaze.
Heav’nly bodies help us listen to the boundless song of praise.

Vs 2 Atoms quiv’ring deep inside us, cells abuzz with energy.
Particles are chanting psalms in tiny, holy synergy.
All these molecules provide us patterns of the craft of God,
off’ring up melodic first-fruit, grateful hymns which leave us awed.

Vs 3 Human voices praise our Maker, part of the created choir:
rumbling tones of space below us, neutron’s descant ever higher.
Hymns arise from all around us, thankful praise our whole life long,
to the One who made us, knows us, Author of the endless song!

Call to Worship

Leader: Today, we pray for those who are most vulnerable among us

People: and who are most impacted by climate change.

Leader: We pray for the waters, the plants,
all living creatures and the earth

**People: with gratitude, that we may recognize their sacredness
and participate in their restoration.**

Leader: We pray that our political leaders and world leaders

**People: would become more active in
reducing carbon emissions worldwide.**

Leader: We pray that we will find the motivation
to respond to climate change

People: in our own lives, congregations, and communities.

Leader: We pray for local, community, and business leaders

**People: to help make communities healthier and greener
while centering those who are vulnerable.**

Leader: We pray for the youth and future generations,

People: who will live with the growing consequences of climate change.

All: Amen

Passing the Peace

♪ ***At the Dawn of Your Creation*** (vs. 1-3)

VT 179

Vs 1 At the dawn of your creation, God, you spoke: "Let there be light!"
You divided earth from heaven, you created day and night.
You made sunbeams dance with shadows, you created energy!
Peaceful evenings, bright tomorrows, all began with "Let there be!"

Vs 2 By your word, you formed creation: dry land, water, ocean breeze.
Soon there burst forth vegetation: plants with fruit, majestic trees,
rain and snow and changing seasons, creatures filling land and sea.
God, your very good creation all began with "Let there be!"

Vs 3 When you made us as your children, sending us throughout your lands,
you commanded, "Have dominion, care for earth; it's in your hands."
Yet we hurt this world you've given; we harm earth and sky and sea.
We forget it's your creation, you, who once said, "Let there be!"

♪ **Call for Children: *Let the Children Come to Me***

VT 512

Let the children come to me; let the children come.
Never hinder them; never stop them.
Oh, let the children come.
Oh, let the children come, let them come.

Children's Time

♪ ***Gloria***

VT 94

Invocation

♪ *The Garden Needs Our Tending Now*

VT 788

- Vs 1 The garden needs our tending now- the water, soil, and air.
The very rocks and stones cry out for stewardship and care.
Creation groans, awaiting still the consummation of God's will:
Earth shall be green and new, Eden restored. Terra viridissima.
- Vs 2 Where air and waters, crystal bright, have now grown choked and foul,
The sparrow's Maker mourns the loss of eagle, falcon, owl.
Creation groans, its creatures yearn for wilderness and peace returned:
Earth shall be green and new, Eden restored. Terra viridissima.
- Vs 3 When human tribes and nations vie to own its fertile yield,
the Psalmist knows the earth is God's, its fullness, grace revealed.
Creation groans, and pleads for hands to bring God's healing to its lands:
Earth shall be green and new, Eden restored. Terra viridissima.
- Vs 4 While peoples die in poverty, some lives are thick with waste.
The Prophets warn us: "Simplify!" Their challenge must be faced.
Creation groans, awaiting still a Church responsive to God's will:
Earth shall be green and new, Eden restored. Terra viridissima.

Faith Reflection

Chimes

Scripture

Genesis 1:31

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

♪ *O Healing River*

VT 706

- Vs 1 O healing river, send down your waters,
Send down your waters upon this land.
O healing river, send down your waters,
And wash the blood from off the sand.
- Vs 2 This land is parching, this land is burning,
No seed is growing in the barren ground.

O healing river, send down your waters,
O healing river, send your waters down.

Vs 3 Let the seed of freedom awake and flourish,
Let the deep roots nourish, let the tall stalks rise.
O healing river, send down your waters,
O healing river, from out of the skies.

Meditation #1

“A Fierce Wake-Up Call”

♪ *Touch the Earth Lightly*

VT 145

Vs 1 Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children to tomorrow will bear.

Vs 2 We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who still foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Vs 3 Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses, and air that is sweet,
health in God’s garden, hope in God’s children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

Vs 4 God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Meditation #2

“Reflections and a Call to Community”

♪ *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth* Hymnal: A Worship Book 482

Vs 1 Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, Source of ev’ry breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun;
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Vs 2 Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,
grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace;
your very body for my peace.

Vs 3 Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one, in arms of patience hold me close,
So that in faith I root and grow until I flow'r, until I know;
until I flow'r, until I know.

Chimes

Community & Sharing

Offertory

“To a Water-lily, Op. 51 No. 6” (from *Woodland Sketches* by Edward MacDowell)

Prayer & Benediction

♪ *God Who Touches Earth with Beauty*

VT 550

Vs 1 God who touches earth with beauty, make my heart anew.
With your Spirit recreate me pure and strong and true.

Vs 2 Like your springs and running water, make me crystal pure.
Like your rocks of tow'ring grandeur, make me strong and sure.

Vs 3 Like your dancing waves in sunlight, make me glad and free.
Like the straightness of the pine trees, let me upright be.

Vs 4 Like the arching of the heavens, lift my thoughts above.
Turn my dreams to noble action, ministries of love.

Vs 5 God who touches earth with beauty, make my heart anew.
Keep me ever, by your Spirit, pure and strong and true.

Congregational Sharing & Introductions

Pastoral Prayer

Vs 1 This is God's wondrous world, and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, the wonders God has wrought.

Vs 2 This is God's wondrous world; the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the dark of night, declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world; a wand'rer I may roam.
Whate'er my lot, it matters not, my heart is still at home.

Vs 3 This is God's wondrous world; oh, let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world; the battle is not done.
Jesus who died shall be glorified, and earth and heav'n be one.

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**After the Service**

**10:45am Fellowship Hour** (Community Center)

**11:00am Climate Group Q&A** (Sanctuary)  
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Acknowledgements for Worship Resources

Planets Humming as They Wander

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Music: Sally Ann Morris, 2009, ©2016 GIA Publications, Inc.
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At the Dawn of Your Creation

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, ©2011 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Music: attr. B F White, *Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. Joan Fyock Norris, ©1989 Joan Fyock Norris
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Let the Children Come to Me

Text: James V Marchionda
Music: James V Marchionda; arr. Michael K Runyan, alt.
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Text: Mary Louise Bringle, 1999, ©2002 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music: French traditional, 16th c.; acc. Andrew Donaldson, 2010

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O Healing River

Text: Frances Minkoff

Music: Fred Hellerman

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Touch the Earth Lightly

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Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

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This Is God's Wondrous World

Text: Maltbie D Babcock, *Thoughts for Every-Day Living*, 1901, alt.

Music: Franklin L Sheppard, *Alleluia*, 1915, adapt. from English traditional RUSPER

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Worship Leaders: Jim Dunn, Jennifer Miller, and Glenn Balzer

Meditations: Jim Dunn and Jennifer Miller

Song Leader: Charlie Ferguson

Musician: Romaine Anderson

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Thanks to all who generously shared their attention and talents to make this service a time of encouragement and challenge in our walk of faith.



Giving

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