

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

REV. SONIA DUNBAR

*"Whoever you are and wherever you are in life's journey,  
you are welcome in this church."*

9:30 A.M.

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF CREATIONTIDE

SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

## ALL ONE CREATION: LAND AND EARTH SUNDAY



*Spare me the racket of your chanting!  
Relieve me of the strumming of your harps!  
Instead, let justice flow like a river,  
and righteousness like an unfailing stream.  
—Amos 5:23-24*



WELCOME, GRATITUDE & ANNOUNCEMENTS  
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

PRELUDE: LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN THEY WORD

MICHAEL PRAETORIUS (1571-1621)

RESPONSIVE GATHERING PRAYER

One: In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life, the name of Christ, the pulse of life, and the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. Amen.

**Many: Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.**

One: Christ, we come into your presence today to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

**Many: A planet filled with your presence, quivering in the forests, vibrating in the land, pulsating in the wilderness, shimmering in the rivers.**

One: God, reveal yourself to us in this place and show us your face in all creation.

**All: Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.**

CALLING THE LAND INTO WORSHIP

\*HYMN #529 — LET ALL THINGS ALL THINGS NOW LIVING

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR/AN INTERFAITH MOMENT

WHEN THE GOOD IS PERVERTED: SWASTIKA VS. HAKENKREUZ

(INTERFAITH)

CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS INCORPORATING SILENT PRAYER, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, AND  
THE LORD'S PRAYER (FROM THE NEW ZEALAND BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER)

*Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,*

*Source of all that is and that shall be,*

*Father and Mother of us all,*

*Loving God, in whom is heaven:*

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

*The way of your justice is followed by the peoples of the world!*

*Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!*

*Your realm 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, strengthen us.*

*From trials too great to endure, 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.*

#278 — HEAR OUR PRAYER, OH GOD

VERSE 1

## RESPONSIVE READING

- One: We remember the dry land that rose from the waters in the beginning of creation and the plants that emerged from the soil to cover the land with vegetation.
- Many: **We remember with delight the gardens and the fields of our childhood, the places where we played in the sand, when we felt close to the ground, to bright flowers and baby animals.**
- One: We remember and rejoice.
- Many: **Thank you, God, for the land and for the soils that sustain our life.**
- One: We have erred. We remember and confess that we have become alienated from Earth and cleared much of the life from the land in our garden planet.
- Many: **We are sorry. We have killed living soils with excessive chemicals. We have turned fertile fields into lifeless salt plains. We have cleared rich lands of wildlife. We have swallowed Earth's resources in selfish cities.**
- One: And yet, Christ hears our confession from deep in the tomb and forgives our sins against the land.
- All: **Christ, teach us to love Earth and return to Earth as our home.**

## OFFERINGS, TITHES, AND MISSIONS

Thank you for your continued financial support of the Church and our missions. Our mission for *September is Habitat for Humanity*, and we continue our support of the Danville Food Shelf

DOXOLOGY #46 — *PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM*

(THOMAS KEN, 1674; ADAPTED W.B. ABERNATHY)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.***

## UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and as signs of our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth.  
With all creation, we praise our Creator***

\*HYMN — *TOUCH THE EARTH LIGHTLY* (SEE INSERT)

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

HEBREW FIRST TESTAMENT — *GENESIS 3:14-19 & 4:8-16*

PSALM — *PSALM 137:7-10*

EPISTLE — *ROMANS 5:12-17*

GOSPEL — *MATTHEW 12:38-40*

## BRIEF MUSING AND SUGGESTED PRACTICE—REMEMBERING SACRED GROUND

\*HYMN #528 — *WE PLOW THE FIELDS AND SCATTER*

## UNISON BENEDICTION

*Now may the power of Christ's body and blood  
reach deep into our hearts, our minds and our bodies  
to heal our wounds and, through us,  
to bring healing to Earth, in his name.  
Christ calls us to be his disciples,  
and to serve Earth by caring for creation,  
especially the land that God has given life  
so that we and all our kin may live.  
We go in peace, serving Christ and tending Earth. Amen.*

BENEDICTION RESPONSE #345 — GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN (FIRST 3-LINES NO CHORUS)

POSTLUDE: AMERICANA

*\*if possible, please stand*

### RESOURCES USED FOR TODAY'S SERVICE:

Today's service is based from "Land Sunday", a liturgy prepared for the 2nd Sunday in the Season of Creation by the Uniting Church / Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. <https://www.seasonofcreation.org/worship-resources/liturgies/....> Last accessed 8/29/23.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Our steeple is being lit in honor of all those who are a part of land conservation and a reminder that land conservation is a tangible gift for generations to come.
- Next Week's Service: Rev. Sonia will lead a colloquium about her participation at the Parliament of World Religions.
- All are welcome to come for a half hour of quiet meditation every Sunday morning (in season) at 8:30 upstairs in Lynne and Barry Lawson's barn on Old Cemetery Road. Instruction can be available at the beginning if you tell us beforehand. For info, call Lynne or Barry at 802-592-3632."
- **SAVE THE DATES:**
  - **PCC Church Sale** on OCT 5th during the Fall Foliage Meal.
  - **Creation Care Symposium** OCT 7th, 1-5:30 p.m. in South Royalton! For details, [CLICK HERE](#), visit our [website](#), and see our TimelyTidings for poster and details.
- Rev. Sonia will leave on her sabbatical on October 3rd and return in early November. We will have guest service leaders during this time.
- **NOTICE:** While the work is being done on our front door, it cannot be left unlocked without swinging open. If you need to see Rev. Sonia and the front door is shut, please remember to use the back stairs off the kitchen.

## REV. SONIA'S OFFICE HOURS

**Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. & Wednesday by Appointment**

As always, reach Rev. Sonia outside of office hours via:

please call @ (802) 274-2928

email @ [peachampastor@gmail.com](mailto:peachampastor@gmail.com)

web @ [www.peachamchurch.org](http://www.peachamchurch.org)

**Please call Patty Gardner at (413) 883-2842 if you have an emergency or at times when Rev. Sonia is on vacation or not in the office.**

Except in an emergency, please schedule meetings and visits during office hours. If Rev. Sonia is on a Zoom call or in a confidential discussion, she will place a "Do Not Disturb" sign on the door into the sanctuary.

We appreciate your understanding.

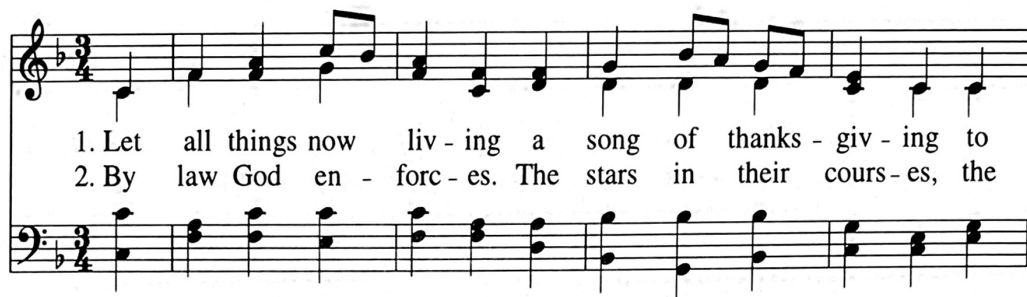
REMINDER: Please send Timm any announcements you would like posted by the Thursday before the next service.  
[peachamchurchevents@gmail.com](mailto:peachamchurchevents@gmail.com)

## PEACHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION

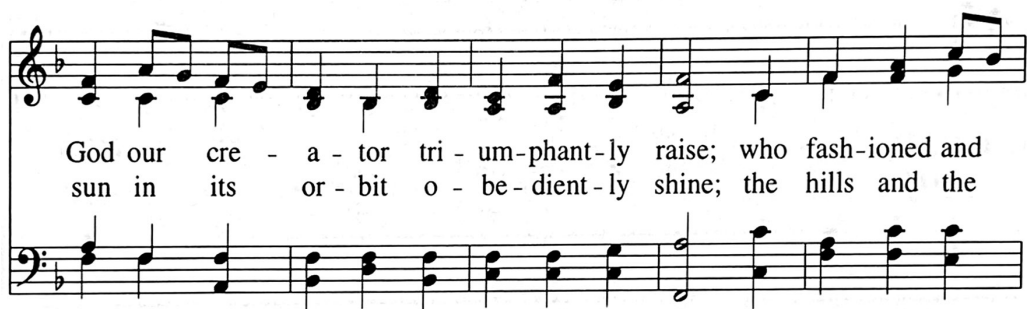
<b>Minister</b> .....	<b>Rev. Sonia Dunbar</b>		
<b>Church Administrator</b> .....	<b>Patty Gardner</b>		
Church Council President & Moderator .....	John Marshall		
Lay Service Coordinator .....	Lynne Lawson		
<b>Music/Choir Director</b> .....	<b>Cara Hill</b>		
Accompanist .....	Bruce Westcott		
Deacons:	Susan Chandler	Mary Daly	Patty Gardner
	Mary Lou Judas	Anita Vann	Rick Witt
Treasurer .....	Bruce Westcott		
Collector .....	Ann Goss		
Sexton .....	Jeff Lane		
Web-Ministry .....	Jonathan R. Potter		
Publications & Communication .....	Timm Judas		
Usher & Graphic Designer .....	Max Judas		



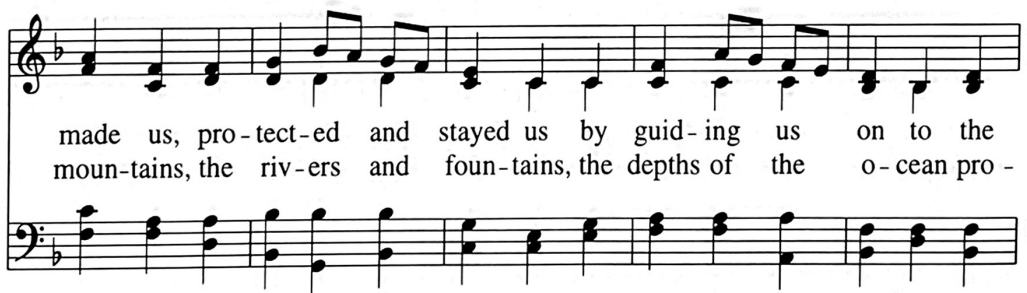
## Let All Things Now Living



1. Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
 2. By law God en - forc - es. The stars in their cours - es, the



God our cre - a - tor tri - um-phantly raise; who fash-ioned and  
 sun in its or - bit o - be-dient-ly shine; the hills and the



made us, pro-lect-ed and stayed us by guid-ing us on to the  
 moun-tains, the riv-ers and foun-tains, the depths of the o - cean pro -



end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us, pure  
 claim God di - vine. We, too, should be voic - ing our

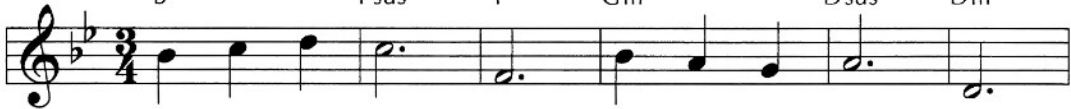
light goes be - fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing  
love and re - joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a

forth in the night: till shad - ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness  
song let us raise till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks -

ban - ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
giv - ing: "To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

# Touch the Earth Lightly

Capo 3: (G) (Dsus) (D) (Em) (Bsus) (Bm)  
B<sup>b</sup> Fsus F Gm Dsus Dm



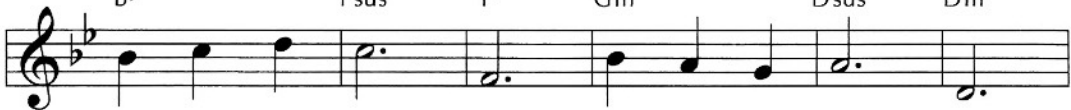
1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,  
2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,  
3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,  
4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

(C) (D7) (G) (Am7) (Dsus) (D)  
E<sup>b</sup> F7 B<sup>b</sup> Cm7 Fsus F



nour - ish the life of the world in our care:  
a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,  
wa - ter that bless - es and air that is sweet,  
God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

(G) (Dsus) (D) (Em) (Bsus) (Bm)  
B<sup>b</sup> Fsus F Gm Dsus Dm



gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,  
we who would fos - ter clouds of di - sas - ter,  
health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,  
teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

(C) (G) (Em) (Am7) (D) (G) (G)  
E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Gm Cm7 F B<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>



trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.  
God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!  
re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.  
us - ing us gent - ly and mak - ing us one.

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1991

MUSIC: Colin Gibson, 1992

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TENDERNESS

5.5.10.D



1. We plow the fields and scat-ter the good seed on the land, but it is  
 2. A - lone God is the mak-er of all things near and far; who paints the  
 3. We thank thee, our Cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good: the seed-time

fed and wa - tered by God's all - lov - ing hand. God sends the snow in  
 way-side flow - er, and lights the eve - ning star. Whom winds and waves do  
 and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food. Ac - cept the gifts we

win-ter, the warmth to swell the grain, the breez - es and the sun-shine, and  
 fol-low, by whom the birds are fed; who gives to us, the chil-dren, such  
 of - fer, for all thy love im-parts, and, what thou most de - sir - est, our

*Refrain*  
 soft, re - fresh-ing rain.  
 boun-teous dai - ly bread. All good gifts a-round us re-veal the heav'n-ly  
 hum - ble, thank-ful hearts.

face; Now praise our God, O praise our God for bound - less grace.