

Service of the Word

April 15, 2018

The Third Sunday of Easter

Welcome! It's a joy to worship with you today.

Larger print bulletins & personal hearing amplifiers are available in the Narthex (Main St. entry).

Caring volunteers and paid staff tend our nursery during worship. Your little one is welcome there any time. Sunday School for Kindergarten through seventh grade begins after All Ages Together.

Prelude "Reflets Dans L'eau" (Reflections in the Water) from Images Book One by Claude Debussy
Catherine York, Pianist

Welcome

The Rev. Jill H. Small

The Greeting of Peace *You are invited to greet those near you, sharing the peace of God.*

Introit

Call to Worship (responsive)

Henry Smith, Pulpit Assistant

One: How do we listen for the voice of creation?

All: How do we speak for her and care for her children?

One: Do we judge ourselves for taxing the water, soil and sky, trees and crops, fish and fowl, fields and herds?

All: We have inherited them. We hold them in trust for generations we will never know.

One: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

* **Processional Hymn** *For the Beauty of the Seacoast (verses 1 and 2)*
*(*Congregation may stand)*

For the waters of the earth, for the ocean and Great Bay,
For the shores of Adams Point, and the path of Marginal Way,
For Peaks Island and Rye Beach, God, we give you thanks for each.

Open spaces that sustain, Blue Job Mountain, Wagon Hill;
For Vaughn Woods in nearby Maine, places we find nature still.
Longmarsh and the Sweet Trail, too – these are places we seek you.

Words from church members, crafted into song by Chuck Hotchkiss, May 2014

The Lord's Prayer/Prayer of Jesus

Our Father/Creator who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom/Reign 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/Reign, and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

Blessing the Children and Youth on Their Way

“The Trees of the Field/You Shall Go Out with Joy” (from Isaiah 55:12)

You shall go out with joy – and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there'll be shouts of joy, – and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands. And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, – the trees of the field will clap their hands – the trees of the field will clap their hands – while you go out with joy.

Anthem

“The Gift of Each Day” by John Rutter

Chancel Choir

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Our Church Family Prays

Invitation to Offering *Today, in addition to our usual offerings, we invite you to use the bulletin insert to indicate a personal commitment to eco-justice and care for creation. Please pass your commitment toward the aisle when one of our youth comes to your pew. Thank you.*

Offertory

* **Doxology** (#780 NCH)

Prayer of Dedication (Responsive)

One: As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.

All: We commit to bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air.

One: We commit to renew the forests, to care for the plants, to protect the creatures.

All: We commit to celebrate the seas, to rejoice in the sunlight, to sing the song of the stars.

One: We commit to respecting the human community, to promoting justice and peace, to remembering all of God's children.

All: As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.

* **Hymn**

Touch the Earth Lightly

569 NCH

Text for the Day

Genesis 1:26-31

Sermon

“It Was Very Good”

*** Closing Hymn**

For the Beauty of the Seacoast (verses 3 and 4)

Lamprey River, College Woods, Estes's farm and our backyard,
Where we're reminded life is good, even when the times are hard.
Thank you, God, for streams and fields, and the goodness nature yields.
Carter Notch and Short Sands Beach, where we go to be renewed;
Nature has so much to teach of our covenant with you.
Favorite rocks, a patch of sod – these are places we find God.

Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude *Hornpipe* from "Water Music" by George Frederic Handel

As our worship together ends, our true service begins.

After worship, all are welcome to gather for refreshments and conversation in Fellowship Hall, hosted by Jennifer Jackson and Lorie Bromley.

Thanks to the Green Justice Team for helping to craft today's worship service: Dwight Baldwin, Steve Holmgren, Ruth Kane, Maggie Morrison, John Puffer, Hugh Tyler, Mary Jane Tyler, and Vohnny Weyrick; and to our readers: Charlotte Cousins, Mia Hricz, Hayden Marshall, Katie Ellis, Maggie Morrison, John Puffer, and Vohnny Weyrick.

Thanks also to our Greeters today: Don Smith, Brenda Sargent, and Doug Terrill, and to our Sound Engineers: John Moore, Grant Armstrong, Russell Mason, and Fisayo Dada for running our sound system each Sunday morning.

For information about the Community Church of Durham United Church of Christ, or if you have a question or comment to share, please speak with a greeter or with Pastor Jill Small.



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DURHAM
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An open and affirming congregation where all are welcome.



THE REV. JILL H. SMALL, INTERIM PASTOR
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