



Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

Earth Day Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude "He Is Risen" Jason Tonioli. (2025) Tonioli Music, LLC.

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Janna VanderWoude

**Passing of the Peace (L: Leader; P: People)

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you

**Call to Worship Liturgist Allison Miller

L: Praise the One who creates with joy!

P: We join all creation rejoicing in God's providing.

L: Praise the Creator who delights in the life of the world, and redeems it.

P: Alleluia!! With all our heart and soul we bless the Lord!

Gathering Hymn #14 – v. 1, 4, 5 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Prayer of Confession and Thanks for Reconciling Grace Pastor Janna

L: Holy God, we confess ... we are captured by our desire to take what we are able to take, to blame others, and to make excuses to you, our Provider, when you call us to walk in this Garden of Earth with you.

P: Though we are formed from earth and will return to it, you breathe the life of your Spirit into us: By that Spirit may we reconcile with all children of God who call this place home, and work toward an earth that sustains us in knowing and celebrating your love for all of us. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Risen One. Amen.

**Response - # 240 Refrain, v.4, Refrain "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

4. Come let us praise the living God Joyfully sing to our Savior (Refrain)

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist Allison Miller

Gospel Text for the Day- Acts 17: 1-31 (Text on Insert)

L: The Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

Reflecting on the Word Together: "Paul on Time-out"

Pastor Janna

WE GO OUT TO HEAR AND SHARE GOD'S WORD IN THE WORLD

**** Going Out Song—Hymn # 19 "God of Great and God of Small"**

Following this song we will proceed together out of the sanctuary and into our shared place on the earth: The Christ Memorial Church grounds. You are encouraged to join us at four Word and Prayer stations where we will reflect and pray together about where we are and who we are as Christ's disciples in this place. The four stations are located as follows:

- Front Entry to Christ Memorial Church, looking out to The Wall
- The South (Brown) property, to the firepit and worship gathering area
- Rear Parking lot near the Bell and Memorial Garden Area
- Rear Parking lot near the Rain Garden Area, then looking toward Allview

THANKSGIVING

****Doxology- #232 v.4 "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"**

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, you heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

****Charge and Benediction**

Refreshments are provided in the upstairs hallway for a time of fellowship after our worship.
We hope you will join us!

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 104 (CEB, Reading Station 4A)

This is a lengthy Psalm that gives God praise for all the varied forms of creation from specific animals to volcanoes. Today we are reading just a small portion of the Psalm.

²⁴LORD, you have done so many things!

You made them all so wisely!

The earth is full of your creations!

²⁷All your creations wait for you
to give them their food on time.

²⁸When you give it to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled completely full!

²⁹But when you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to dust.

³⁰When you let loose your breath, they are created,
and you make the surface of the ground brand-new again.

³¹Let the LORD's glory last forever!
Let the LORD rejoice in all that is made!

Gospel Text for the Day: Acts 17:1-31 (NRSVUE ending with CEB)

After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ² And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead and saying, "This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you." ⁴ Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. ⁵ But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. ⁶ When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some brothers and sisters before the city authorities, shouting, "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, ⁷ and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus." ⁸ The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, ⁹ and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

¹⁰ That very night the brothers and sisters sent Paul and Silas off to Berea, and when they arrived they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ These Jews were more receptive than those in Thessalonica, for they welcomed the message very eagerly and examined the scriptures every day to see whether these things were so. ¹² Many of them therefore believed, including not a few Greek women and men of high standing. ¹³ But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea as well, they came there, too, to stir up and incite the crowds. ¹⁴ Then the brothers and sisters immediately sent Paul away to the coast, but Silas and Timothy remained behind. ¹⁵ Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and, after receiving instructions to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him.

(Reading 1) ¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this pretentious babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹ So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

(Reading 3) ²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'

(Reading 4B) ²⁹ "Therefore, as God's offspring, we have no need to imagine that the divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made by human skill and thought. ³⁰ God overlooks ignorance of these things in times past, but now directs everyone everywhere to change their hearts and lives. ³¹ This is because God has set a day when he intends to judge the world justly by a man he has appointed. God has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."