

**Kindred Spirits Worship**  
**Third Sunday of Easter April 19, 2026**  
**Earth Sunday**  
**Theme: Water of Life: Called to Care for Creation**

**PRELUDE**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES**

One:  
Called to live with respect in Creation  
as Indigenous, Métis, Settler, and Newcomer peoples,  
we acknowledge that the land on which we worship, work, learn, and serve,  
and the water which sustains life on this land,  
is of God, Creator,  
and in the farthest reaches of memory  
was entrusted to the original peoples who walked this land,  
and to their descendants.

One:  
With the coming of colonizers,  
treaties were made,  
but again and again the treaties were broken,  
causing deep and lasting harm  
to the historic caregivers of the land,  
to the generations that followed them,  
and to the land itself.

**All:**  
**Called to action for Truth and Reconciliation,**  
**we who gather here on Treaty One territory**  
**and the homeland of the Red River Metis**  
**commit ourselves to faithful ways**  
**of honoring the treaties, the land, and one another**  
**in a spirit of open-hearted respect.**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OPENING STATEMENT**

Today we gather in a season of resurrection, where new life is breaking forth all around us. We remember that God's Spirit moves like water, flowing, renewing, sustaining life. Water is a gift. It cleanses, nourishes, and connects all living things. Yet it is also fragile, and many in our world lack access to safe, life-giving water.

Today, we listen for Christ walking beside us, as he did on the road to Emmaus, opening our eyes to see God's presence in creation and in one another. We are called by earth and sky to care, to protect, and to love this world God has made.

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it.

**All: The waters flow with God's life and love.**

One: Christ walks with us, even when we do not recognize him.

**All: Our hearts burn within us as he speaks.**

One: The Spirit moves like living water among us.

**All: We come to be renewed and sent out in love.**

One: Let us worship God.

**All: We worship with gratitude and joy.**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**Life-giving God, you created the waters of the earth and called them good.  
You send rain to nourish the land and streams to sustain all living things.**

**Open our eyes to see your presence in creation. Open our hearts to care for the earth and for one another. Let your Spirit flow through us like living water, renewing our faith and guiding our actions. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN: MV#135    Called by Earth and Sky**

## **MOMENT TO PONDER**

Water teaches us something about God. It flows where it is needed. It gives life without asking for anything in return. It shapes even the hardest places not by force, but by persistence. God's love is like that.

And yet, today, water is not something everyone can take for granted. Around the world, 1 in 4 people over 2 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water. Many walk long distances every day just to find water. Some must drink from unsafe sources. What we turn on with a tap is, for many, a daily struggle.

Even here in Manitoba, we know that access to clean water is not equal. Some Indigenous communities still face challenges with safe drinking water. So, this is not just a global issue, it is a local call.

Water is life. And if water is life, then caring for water is caring for people. Lent and Easter remind us that faith is not only what we believe, it is how we live. We are called not to waste what is precious, not to take creation for granted, but to protect it, honor it, and advocate for those without it.

So today we ask: How can we conserve water in our daily lives? How can we speak up for clean water not just far away, but right here in Manitoba? Because when we care for water, we are living out the love of God for the whole world.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

Acts 2:14a, 36–41, Luke 24:13–35

**CHOIR ANTHEM**    **"All in the April Evening"**

## **REFLECTION**

**HYMN: VU#307**    **Touch the Earth Lightly**

## **OFFERING INVITATION**

God has given us the gift of the earth, water, land, and life itself. In gratitude, we offer not only our gifts, but our commitment to care for creation and for one another. Let us give generously, as we have received generously.

**DOXOLOGY: MV#191      What Can I Do?**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, you have blessed us with the gift of creation and the gift of life. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude. Use them to bring healing to the earth, care for communities in need, and hope to all who thirst for water, for justice, and for love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

## **CENTERING MUSIC**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~ All**

**Loving God, we give you thanks for water for rivers and lakes, for rain and snow, for all that sustains life.**

**We pray for communities without clean water, for those affected by drought, flooding, and pollution.**

**Help us to be better stewards of your creation. Give us wisdom to protect the earth and courage to act.**

**We pray for all who feel lost or discouraged, like the disciples on the road, walk beside them and renew their hope.**

**We pray for this community, that we may live as people who recognize Christ among us and respond with love in action.**

**We lift before you the names spoken aloud and those held in silence...  
(Silence)**

**Trusting in your renewing grace, we pray. Amen.**

**Let us sing THE LORD'S PRAYER. Our father...VU#959**

**HYMN: VU#296 This Is God's Wondrous World**

**COMMISSIONING**

Go now into the world, called by earth and sky.

Go as people who recognize Christ in unexpected places.

Go as people who care for creation especially the gift of water.

Let your lives flow with love, justice, and compassion.

May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the flowing presence of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

**CHORAL BLESSING: MV#209 Go Make a Difference (Refrain)**

**POSTLUDE**