

Third Sunday of Easter

The First Church in Belfast
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
April 15, 2018
10:00 a.m.

WE ARE GATHERED IN

WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

CHORAL ANTHEM

OPENING SEQUENCE

Call to Easter Life

Responsive Reading

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky."

So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind.

And God saw that it was good.

God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind."

And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind.

And God saw that it was good.

Easter Hymn “Spirit of Christ, With You We Arise” v. 2

ONE VOICE Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
On the fifth day, the waters were filled,
Sea monsters and fish, all scaly and gilled!
And then came the creatures, with skin, fur and quill.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

New Life for the Creatures

Reflection “Spring” by Mary Oliver

*In the north country now it is spring and there
is a certain celebration. The thrush
has come home.*

Easter Hymn “Spirit of Christ, With You We Arise” v. 3&1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
On the fifth day, the waters were filled,
Sea monsters and fish, / all scaly and gilled!
And then came the creatures, / with skin, fur and quill.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Spirit of Christ, / with you we arise,
With fear put aside / and light in our eyes,
To embrace the peoples, / the earth, and the skies.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

YOUNG PEOPLE’S MESSAGE AND MINISTRY

“Peppermint Beetle” with Religious Education Director Beth Haynes

GREETING OF PEACE

Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen One.
Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to God’s name.

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING 1 John 3:1-7 Sarah Garbe

SECOND READING Luke 24:36b-48

MESSAGE “*Full Bodied Religion*”

***HYMN** “Now the Green Blade Rises” #238

WE LIVE THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GIVE

***DOXOLOGY**

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.

(Note: The First Church honors the diverse languages of faith. Please sing with words that are meaningful to you. Other versions of the Doxology are found in our hymnal, #776-781.)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May these gifts be a sign of our commitment to your way, O God, the way of compassion, the way of mercy, the way of justice. Give us the wisdom to use them well to heal what has been broken, restore what has been depleted, and build this beloved community of the Risen One! Amen.

WE ARE SENT AND BLESSED

***CLOSING HYMN** "Now Thank We All Our God"#419

***BENEDICTION**