

## St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dr. Susan McGarry

The Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 29, 2011, Year A RCL

We Are One with the Earth Rogation Sunday

### Processional Psalm (8:30) 104:25-35, 37b

- 25 O LORD, how manifold are your works! \*  
in wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 26 Yonder is the great and wide sea  
with its living things too many to number, \*  
creatures both small and great.
- 27 There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, \*  
which you have made for the sport of it.
- 28 All of them look to you \*  
to give them their food in due season.
- 29 You give it to them; they gather it; \*  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
- 30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; \*  
you take away their breath,  
and they die and return to their dust.
- 31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; \*  
and so you renew the face of the earth.
- 32 May your glory, O LORD, endure for ever; \*  
May you rejoice in all your works.
- 33 You look at the earth and it trembles; \*  
you touch the mountains and they smoke.
- 34 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; \*  
I will praise my God while I have my being.
- 35 May these words of mine please you; \*  
I will rejoice in the LORD.
- 37b Hallelujah!

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*  
*Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.*

**People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**Processional Hymn (11) # 8** "Morning Has Broken

*Benedicite Aotearoa* (adapted from a *New Zealand Prayer Book*,  
*Music by Stephen Eddins*)

O give thanks to our God who is good:

**Whose love endures for ever.**

You sun and moon, you stars of the northern sky:

**Give to our God your thanks and praise.**

Sunrise and sunset, night and day:

**Give to our God your thanks and praise.**

All mountains and valleys, grassland and scree,  
glacier, avalanche, mist and snow:

**Give to our God your thanks and praise.**

You oak and pine, hickory and maple, mosses and ferns:

**Give to our God your thanks and praise.**

Dolphins and whitefish, sealion and crab,  
peeper and salamander, frog and snake:

**Give to our God your thanks and praise.**

Rabbits and cattle, moths and dogs,  
robin and sparrow, hummingbird and hawk:

**Give to our God your thanks and praise.**

You people of all nations, women and men,  
all who inhabit this gift of earth:

**Give to our God your thanks and praise.**

All you saints and simple disciples, all who follow God's way:

**Give to our God your thanks and praise.**

**Give to our God your thanks and praise.**

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.** *Celebrant:* Let us pray

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### The Collect for Rogation

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth

and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*For Joy in God's Creation*

**O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**A Reading from Acts 17:22-31**

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 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. 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, 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. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him-- though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 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.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

*After each Reading, the Reader will say* The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 66: 7-18 Jubilate Deo**

7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*

make the voice of praise to be heard;

- 8 Who holds our souls in life, \*  
and will not allow our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the snare; \*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and water; \*  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- 12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings  
and will pay you my vows, \*  
which I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- 13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams;\*  
I will give you oxen and goats.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what the LORD has done for me.
- 15 I cried out with my mouth, \*  
and God's praise was on my tongue.
- 16 If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the Lord would not have heard me;
- 17 But in truth God has heard me; \*  
and attended to the voice of my prayer.
- 18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
nor withheld steadfast love from me.

**A Reading from 1 Peter 3:13-22**

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins

once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.

He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*After each Reading, the Reader will say* The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Gradual Hymn (11:00)** "In The Garden" by Stephen Eddins and Janet Lamb

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to \_\_\_\_\_

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ**

**John 14:15-21**

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

*After the Gospel, the Reader says* The Gospel of the Lord.

**People Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

**The Creed of St. Patrick**

**Our God is the God of all humans,  
the God of heaven and earth,**

**the God of sea and rivers,  
the God of the sun and moon,  
the God of all the heavenly bodies,  
the God of the lofty mountains,  
the God of the lowly valleys.  
God is above the heavens;  
and he is beneath the heavens.  
Heaven and earth and sea,  
and everything that is in them,  
such he has as his abode.  
He inspires all things,  
he gives life to all things,  
he stands about all things,  
and he stands beneath all things.  
He enlightens the light of the sun,  
he strengthens the light of the night and the stars,  
he makes wells in the arid land and dry islands in the  
sea,  
and he places the stars in the service of the greater  
lights.  
He has a Son who is co-eternal with himself;  
and similar in all respects to himself;  
and neither is the Son younger than the Father,  
nor is the Father older than the Son;  
and the Holy Spirit breathes in them.  
And the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit are  
inseparable. Amen**

### **The Prayers of the People**

*Leader:* God of storm and rain cloud, hail, thunder and flood, in darker days we see your awesome power and recognize our own weakness. God of sunshine and warm breezes, slow moving streams and blossoming trees, in lighter days, we see your overwhelming love and recognize our own belovedness. Help us recognize you within the elements of your created world and be grateful.

**People: Hear us, Gracious God.**

*Leader:* God who shines the light of resurrection even into the darkness of death, in the midst of darkness in our world, kindle a fire that all may see your glory; burn brightly in the world around us so that we may see your work and hear your call. Burn in our hearts too, so that we may know how to answer your call.

**People: Hear us, Gracious God.**

*Leader:* Loving God, we see all around us the evidence of your love and your loving provision for our needs. Yet there are others who lack life's basic essentials. Grant a spirit of responsibility to us and to all who work to correct inequality. Help us not to become immune to the suffering of others.

**People: Hear us, Gracious God.**

*Leader:* Gracious God, you know and care for each one of us deeply and intimately. Be with those who are in special need of your care, especially those we now name...*(the congregation is invited to name those for whom they pray)* ... Give them the warmth of your healing, shine the light of your countenance upon them and bring them to full strength.

**People: Hear us, Gracious God.**

*Leader:* Bless, O God, our world, and bring us peace: peace between neighbors, peace between kindred, peace between families, peace between nations, peace within the church, peace within our homes, the peace of Christ above all peace.

**People: Hear us, Gracious God.**

*Celebrant and People:* **We pray this in the name of the hand of God keeping us, the love of Christ shielding us, the strong Spirit bathing us, the Three each step aiding us. Amen**

### **Confession of Sin**

*Celebrant:* God is love and we are God's children. There is no room for fear in love. We love because he loved us first. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**All: Jesus, forgive my sins,  
Forgive the sins that I can remember,  
and also the sins I have forgotten.  
Forgive the wrong actions I have committed,  
and the right actions I have omitted.  
Forgive the times I have been weak in the face of  
temptation,  
and those times when I have been stubborn in the face  
of correction.  
Forgive the times I have been proud of my own  
achievements,  
and those when I have failed to boast of your works.  
Forgive the harsh judgments I have made of others,  
and the leniency I have shown to myself.  
Forgive the lies I have told to others,  
and the truths I have avoided.**

**Forgive me the pain I have caused others,  
and the indulgence I have shown to myself.  
Jesus have pity on me, and make me whole.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you all your sins through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen your body, mind and spirit, and keep you close to the heart of God. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant:* Peace be in your thinking. Peace be in your hearts. Peace with creation. Peace with one another. The Peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **The Holy Communion**

*Celebrant:* Let us with Gladness offer the Tithes Offerings and Oblations of our Life and Labor unto the Lord.

**Offertory:** 405 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

### **Prayer of Dedication:**

**O Risen Christ, your agony on the cross was the birth pangs of a new creation: Give us the courage of the women who first discovered your empty tomb, that we may marvel with them at the wonder and glory of your resurrection. Help us to proclaim that glory to others and to remember the abundant blessings you have given us that we may be empowered to share them; in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

*Celebrant* The Lord is here.

**People** God's spirit is with us.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

**People**                    **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant*                Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People**                    **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**11:00 Sursum corda** (#S-120)

*Celebrant:*

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
From the beginning you have created all things  
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.  
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,  
the crown of all creation.  
You give us breath and speech, that with angels and  
archangels and all the powers of heaven  
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

***Celebrant and People***

**8:30:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**11:00 Holy, Holy, Holy** (# 255 in *LEVAS*)

*Celebrant*

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.  
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,  
you embrace a people as your own.  
When they turned away and rebelled your love remained  
steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Savior, born of Mary,  
to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied.  
He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than  
death, he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his  
friends and, taking bread, he gave thanks. He broke it and  
gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat: this is my Body, which is  
given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave thanks,  
and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new  
covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the  
forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in

remembrance of me."

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**All    Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us  
free. You are the Savior of the world.**

*Celebrant*

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for  
all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in  
glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right  
hand. Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these  
gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood  
of your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy things in  
your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build  
us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, you church in every land. Reveal her  
unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with Aidan and all the saints to the  
vision of that eternal splendor for which you have created us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and  
in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting  
praise:

**All    Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for  
ever and ever. Amen.**

*The service continues with the Lord's prayer*

**8:30 am**

And now, as our Savior  
Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.**

**11:00 am**

As our Savior Christ  
has taught us,  
we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily  
bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**And lead us not into  
temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Save us from the  
time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the  
power, and the glory  
are yours, now and  
for ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Then may be sung or said*

**[Alleluia.] We are one bread, one body.  
We will love one another as Christ loves us. [Alleluia.]**

**“Eight fold Halleluia” (repeated 3 times) (#78 in LEVAS I)**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words.*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **[Amen.]**  
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **[Amen.]**

### **Communion Hymn (11:00)**

**“Sing Alleluia to the Lord”!** (#2258 in *Sing the Faith*)  
*After Communion, the Celebrant says* Let us pray.

### **Celebrant and People**

**Holy, gracious, and loving God, you have drawn us to  
your heart, and nourished us at your table with holy food  
and drink, the Body and Blood of Christ. Now send us  
forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your  
truth, this day and evermore. Amen**

### **Blessing** (source: Celtic).

The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God  
strengthen you to be Christ’s hands and heart in this world,  
in the name of the Holy Trinity. **Amen.**

**Final Hymn: # 291** “We plow the fields and scatter”

*The Celebrant, dismisses them with these words*

Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## **Rogation Service**

*For the Right Use of God’s Gifts*

**Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we  
possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our  
substance, and, remembering the account which we must one  
day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*For the Conservation of Natural Resources*

**Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth,  
you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom  
and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one  
may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet  
to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### **Psalm 103 Benedic, anima mea**

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless God’s holy Name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and forget not all the benefits of the LORD,
- 3 Who forgives all your sins \*  
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 Who redeems your life from the grave \*  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 Who satisfies you with good things, \*  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness \*  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 To Moses were made known God’s ways \*  
and to the children of Israel the works of the LORD.
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 The LORD will not always accuse us, \*  
nor remain angry for ever.

- 10 The LORD has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is the LORD's mercy great upon the God-fearing.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has the LORD removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for the God-fearing.
- 14 For the LORD knows whereof we are made; \*  
and remembers that we are but dust.
- 15 Our days are like the grass; \*  
we flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
and its place shall know it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever  
on the God-fearing, \*  
and the righteousness of the LORD on children's children;
- 18 On those who keep the holy covenant \*  
and remember the commandments and do them.
- 19 The LORD has set up a throne in heaven, \*  
and the sovereignty of the LORD has dominion over all.
- 20 Bless the LORD, you holy angels,  
you mighty ones who do God's bidding, \*  
and hearken to the voice of God's word.
- 21 Bless the LORD, all you holy hosts, \*  
you holy ministers who do God's will.
- 22 Bless the LORD, all you works of God,  
in all places of God's dominion; \*  
bless the LORD, O my soul.

**A litany of Praise and Petition:** *(This Litany may be repeated at each planting sight)*

Almighty God, give us a reverence for the Earth you have created and given into our care. We offer thanks for the gift of food for our nurturance and for the benefit of all your creatures. Help us,

even as we receive from your bounty, to be stewards of the earth for all people and for all your creatures.

That it may please thee to grant favorable weather, temperate rain, and fruitful seasons, that there may be food and drink for all thy creatures,

**We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

That it may please thee to bless the lands and waters, and all who work upon them to bring forth food and all things needful for thy people,

**We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

That it may please thee to look with favor upon all who care for the earth, the water, and the air, that the riches of thy creation may abound from age to age,

**We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.**

*Celebrant*

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon this garden and grant that it may serve to your glory and the welfare of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## About the Service

*The texts and music for this service are from: Eucharistic Prayer G: ©The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2002. Book of Common Prayer, 1979, Rogation Service: The Book of Occasional Services, and Canticle. A New Zealand Prayer Book, Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.. Prayers and Creed, Episcopal Church of the Nativity, Phoenix, Arizona. Lift Every Voice and Sing I, An African American Hymnal: The Church Hymnal Corporation, NY and The Seabury Press Sing the Faith, 2000 Abingdon Press, All published music is copied under OneLicense.net #A-711925 Music by Stephen Eddins used with permission.*

**Thanks to this morning Worship Leaders**

**8:30 AM**  
*Greeters* Jim Barber  
*Readers* Gail Graham  
*Acolytes* Michael Earle

**11:00 AM**  
 Peter Karefa-Smart  
 Janet Lamb, Rachel Baird  
 Lean McGarry

Nursery  
Learning Center Staff  
Altar Guild

Letha Chadiha  
Karie Harrison  
Fran Board

**Weekly Tag: May 29, 2011**

“Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things...” This heartfelt prayer, making up the center of the collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter, sets the stage for our worship, “We are one with the Earth.” In the Gospel lesson, Jesus gives his great commandment, “Love one another as I have love you.” This is part of his parting sermon in the Gospel that begins, “All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.” So it makes sense to love God in all things, the very things that came into being as life. We too are part of that life, and are endowed with life, light, and meaning by God. Too often we step away from loving God in all things, we might make an effort to love God in other people, and yet more often barely manage to love God in the people closest to us or even in ourselves. This Sunday we celebrate Rogation Sunday. We will plant hardwood trees that are native to Michigan on our property and in our woods. This symbolic planting (part of a larger tree restoration project), accompanies prayers for good weather, crops, and farming as reminders of how we are supported by the earth, can never separate from that support, and that we are responsible for its care and well-being. “Loving you in all things,” is a powerful image of the kind of love that really does come from God, “as I have loved you,” and is the kind of love that puts us in mind of our place in a cosmos that from the beginning, was “very good”. Susan

**Retreat: Human Spirituality in Nature and the Built Environment, Sat., June 11 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Facilitator: Ruth F. Board, R.N. PhD.** Fran Board will lead this retreat and discussion will cover *characteristics intrinsically tied to the planet itself*.

Why do we lose the distractions of the busyness of our lives when we spend even a short time in nature?

Why do we feel the need to make sense of our immediate environment, be it a cluttered office or a newly discovered wild place?

This retreat will focus on the relationship of our thoughts and feelings in diverse environmental settings to our spiritual

experiences. Readings from the Psalms will illustrate the significance of human experiences in the environment recorded in sacred scripture. Weather permitting, walks and meditation in our onsite woods may enhance our understanding of this rich relationship of human cognition and our earth. **Please RSVP by June 7<sup>th</sup> (late registrants will be accommodated)**, 734-663-5503, [nam.ministries@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nam.ministries@sbcglobal.net).