



April 26, 2026

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Jody Welker to the pulpit!

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC
Bluegrass Ensemble

Joel Lillethun

"Peace Like a River"

1. I've Got Peace Like a River (3x)...in my soul
2. I've got joy like a fountain (3x)...in my soul.
3. I've got love like an ocean (3x)...in my soul
4. I thank God for creation (3x)...in my soul

"Standing on the Promises"

1. Standing on the promises of Christ, my King
Through eternal ages let His praises sing.
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing.
Standing on the Promises of God

CHORUS: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God,
my Savior.
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of
God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail.
By the living word of God I shall prevail.
Standing on the promises of God. CHORUS

3. Standing on the promises I cannot fall
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call.
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God. CHORUS

"What a Day That Will Be"

1. There is coming a day when no heartaches shall come,
No more clouds in the sky, no more tear to dim the eye
All is peace for evermore on that happy golden shore.
What a day, glorious day that will be.

CHORUS: What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see,
And I looked upon His face; the One who saved me by
His grace,
When He takes me by the hand, and leads me through
the promised land;
What a day, glorious day that will be.

2. There'll be no sorrow there; no more burdens to bear,
No more sickness no pain, no more parting over there,
And forever I will be with the One who died for me;
What a day, glorious day that will be. CHORUS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron Tingle

CHIMING THE TRINITY

PRELUDE "Amazing Grace"
Bluegrass Ensemble

***CALL TO WORSHIP, responsive** *from Psalm 19:1; Psalm 24:1-4*

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God

People: The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

Leader: The plants and trees show God's presence.

People: Let us join with creation in praising God.

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

People: the world and those who live in it.

Leader: God has founded it on the seas,

People: and established it on the rivers.

***OPENING HYMN "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" #32**

**1. I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.**

**2. I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word,
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where e're I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!**

**3. There's not a plant or flower below
But makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,
While all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
And everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.**

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION, responsive

Leader: Beloved, we are made in the divine image, and God called us
good. Yet we go our own way, causing harm to ourselves, to one
another, and to the planet. Confident in the mercy of the One who
made us and saved us, let us confess our sin to God and to another.

**All: God of life, you created us in your image to care for one an-
other and for all creation. Forgive us for turning away from you,
ignoring the needs of our neighbors and the cries of the earth.
As the sun brings light and warmth to this earth, make us signs
of your grace, through Christ, and our light and life, we pray.**

:: A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYER & REFLECTION ::

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, in unison** —
from A Declaration of Faith, PC(USA)

**God made human beings along with all the other creatures
and charged them to care for the earth and all that lives on
it. We acknowledge we share in the interdependence that
binds together all God's creation. Yet God gives us power
to rule and tame, to order and reshape the world. We hold
the earth in trust for future generations of living things.
The Lord forbids us to plunder, foul, and destroy the earth.
The Lord expects us to produce, to consume, to reproduce
in ways that make earth's goodness available to all people
and reflect God's love for all creatures. The Lord bids us
use our technical skills for beauty, order, health, and peace.**

:: PASSING THE PEACE ::

*And now, as people who are loved and forgiven by the grace of God,
we pass the peace of Christ, remembering God's command to love
and forgive one another.*

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM: "Touch the Earth Lightly" *Shirley Frena Murray*
Bluegrass Ensemble

FIRST SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:1—2:3 *Stan Briggs*

SECOND SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:25-34

SERMON: "Lessons from the Master Gardener"
Rev. Dr. Jody Welker, Bridge Interim Pastor

DEDICATION "Tree of Life" TAPASTRY

:: 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.**



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE *(seated)*

"God, Creation Sings Your Praises" Carolyn Gillette

1. God, creation sings your praises;
mountains echo from afar.
All your blessings here amaze us;
Hills rejoice how great you are!
In the whole of your creation, in each sea and wood and glade,
We are called to have dominion over all that you have made.

2. We've ignored your wise instruction
To take care of what you give.
For our greed has caused destruction
And your world cries out to live.
Though you've given us your bounty
By your kind and loving hand,
In the search for power and money,
we've abused sea, sky and land.

3. Lord, you give creation limits so creation will be blessed.
You set planets in their orbits; you give days for Sabbath rest.
You make fruit not for consuming,
Things to stay where they are found,
And with great disaster looming —
fuel to keep within the ground.

4. Still, your limits aren't to crush us, or to stifle or devour.
Sun and tide and wind refresh us,
Giving light and warmth and power.
You give new imagination, love to heal our neighbors' pain,
Lives to build up your creation till the earth is whole again.

5. God, you give to us a vision
of this world we're called to seek,
Where creation joins in singing,
Where the strong protect the weak,
Where your people serve each other,
wanting only what is best,
May we work with one another till creation so is blessed.

GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "God of the Deep" Dan Forrest
Merideth Sanders, soloist Diane Combs, pianist

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.



*CLOSING HYMN "This Is My Father's World" #370

1. This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings,
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought.

2. This is my Father's world. O, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems off so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world. The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Go In the Grace of the Lord" James Barnard
Go in the Grace of the Lord.
Walk in the way of His Word.
Stand in the strength of His promises,
And believe in your heart they are true.

Sit at the feet of the Savior.
Pray in the power of the Spirit.
Rise and run the race with patience,
And go in the Grace of the Lord.

POSTLUDE "A Song of Jubilant Praise" Franklin Ritter
Diane Combs

** Please stand as you are able for these portions of the service.*

You are invited to stay on after worship for
Fellowship Hour
and
meet Enrique Sanchez,
Earth Care's special guest.



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA

APRIL 26, 2026



EARTH CARE SUNDAY

Then God surveyed everything He had made,
savoring its beauty and appreciating its goodness.
—Genesis 1:31

WAYNESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

The flowering perennials in the sanctuary today are
the gift of Rick & Andrea Croskery.
They will be planted in the native garden in the
church landscape
in honor of Earth Day 2026.