

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1: 28-31

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

### CHILDREN’S MOMENT

*(After Children’s Moment, children age 3 – 5th grade are invited to Children’s Church in Room L8, located downstairs. Children will return to the Sanctuary to receive Communion with their families.)*

### SERMON

~ Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling

\*HYMN #144 This is My Father’s World

TERRA BEATA

### \*CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God of creation, you laid the cornerstone of the Earth and marked its bounds. You gave the sea its limit and the soil its richness, providing a home where all could dwell in safety.

**But the foundations are cracking, and the waters are rising. We hear the groaning of creation, and we confess that we have not tended the garden with care.**

We lament today for the changing winds and the increasing frequency of droughts and floods. We mourn the seasons that no longer follow their ancient rhythm. But even more we lament the walls we have built between us.

**We confess that we have treated safety as a privilege for the few, rather than a right for the many.**

We see how we have lived in the comfort of sturdy homes and secure futures, while neighbors at our gates lie exposed to the elements. We have kept the resources of resilience close, and left others in manufactured precarity.

**Forgive us for building systems where the poor pay the price for the comfort of the powerful. Forgive us for believing that some lives are worth less protection than others.**

We pray for those who are currently suffering from loss and damage—for the island nations shrinking into the sea, for the farmers whose land is turning to dust, and for the families in our own cities forced to live in floodplains because there was nowhere else to go.

**Lord, hear the cry of the vulnerable. Do not let their loss be forgotten. Do not let our security blind us to their ruin.**

You call us to be repairers of the breach. Call us now to a new task. Not merely to build higher walls to keep the water out, but to build wider tables to invite our neighbors in.

**Grant us the wisdom to adapt not just our infrastructure, but our hearts, dismantling the manufactured barriers that separate us.**

Move us from the charity of crumbs to the justice of solidarity. Empower us to ensure that when the storms come, the entitlement to safety, to food, and to a future is shared by all your children.

**We refuse to accept a world where disaster is the destiny of the poor. We commit to repairing the breach. We commit to the work of restoration.**

In the name of the One who calmed the sea and fed the multitude,

**Amen.**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CARETAKERS OF GOD’S CREATION MOMENT

~ Matt Summers, chair

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(After each petition, the congregation responds with: **Hear our prayer.**)*

#### Thanksgiving

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

How Great Thou Art, Hymn #77

\*DOXOLOGY #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

See Musical Setting A on pp. 17A-18A in the *United Methodist Hymnal*.  
*[We offer a gluten-free element option and always use grape juice, not wine]*

### THE LORD’S PRAYER *(spoken)*

### RECEIVING COMMUNION

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale, Hymn #122

### PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

#### Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

\*HYMN #92 For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

Fantasy on Easter Hymn

William H. Harris

Leading Today’s Worship Service:

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling, Rev. Stephanie Bekhor

Liturgist: Jane Hanson

Guest Organist: Bruce Caveness

Children’s Sharing: Linnea Carlson

Join us for Coffee Fellowship in the Gathering Space.

*Register your attendance using the QR code below or by using the attendance card located in the pew rack.*



## Congregational Prayers

### Healing and Sympathy:

~For Ken Miller and release from fear as he approaches his 96th birthday. And for Ann Miller, as she learns to live with cancer at 94.

~For Barb H. as she recovers from aortic valve replacement and prepares for some further procedures. Barb was married to Cindy Huber's godfather.

~For Chris, who is very ill and awaiting a diagnosis and treatment.

~For Carole Shakkour, who is in the late stages of cancer.

*For those battling cancer and long-term illness:* Heather Weir, Karen Watkins, Elizabeth Carnahan, Jason Micheli, Sally, Christine, Yarikza, Kate Heavner, Peter Joyce, Cindy, Tom Benson, Kay Lewis, Justin, Dena, Mary Hays, Susan Newton, Thomas Greving, Sue Mink, Chi Bahn, Michael Milano.

### Prayers for the World:

~For all those impacted by the historic flooding in Michigan.

~For peace between the United States and Iran.

~For peace between Russia and Ukraine.

~For Secretary of State Marco Rubio who hosted a meeting between the Israeli and Lebanese ambassadors in Washington, D.C., to launch direct negotiations between the countries.

~For the 56th anniversary of Earth Day.

~For an end to wars around the world.

To submit a prayer concern go to our website [mountolivetumc.com/prayers](http://mountolivetumc.com/prayers) or use the back of the attendance card.

\* \* \*

*Please stand, as able, for those acts of worship marked with an asterisk\*.*

*Words in bold type indicate a congregational response.*

## Announcements

### Church Office

The church office is open! Office hours (when you can meet with staff/clergy) are Tuesday-Friday from 9 AM – 2 PM, closed Monday. Staff/clergy will continue to work flexible hours and have other meetings and appointments, so it is best to make an appointment as needed. You can email an individual staff member or clergy or call the church office at 571-447-3619.

### Celebrating our New Space

We are excited to report that Mount Olivet has passed our fire and building inspections! Today, **April 19**, at 10:30 AM, we will have a dedication of our new space in the Sanctuary with a cake reception to follow. You will have an opportunity to tour the fire-side of the building. There will be no children or youth Sunday School. Adult classes have the option to decide whether they want to meet or not.

On **May 2** from 2-5 pm, we invite you to attend the Open House celebrating the restoration of a major portion of the church, which was damaged in a devastating fire over three years ago. We will host a short program in the sanctuary at 3:00 pm.

As Arlington's oldest church in continuous ministry at the same location, we will celebrate our 170 years on this site as well as current ministries that enrich our community.

The Open House will feature activities throughout the afternoon, including activities for children. We welcome you at any time, and especially for the 3:00 pm event.

Please plan to come and share your faith by inviting a friend to this inclusive community event for all ages.

Please let us know by **April 29** if you can join us. Contact Monte Campbell, the planning team chair, by email at [montecampbell@earthlink.net](mailto:montecampbell@earthlink.net) or phone (703) 819-5311.

### Discover Mount Olivet Classes

You don't have to rush the journey. Discover Mount Olivet offers space to learn, ask questions, and explore how God might be calling you deeper into the life of this church. Two April Zoom classes will be scheduled at times convenient for participants. Contact Monte Campbell at [montecampbell@earthlink.net](mailto:montecampbell@earthlink.net)

Find additional announcements and more on our website [mountolivetumc.com](http://mountolivetumc.com) or subscribe to our weekly e-news.



MOUNT  
OLIVET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*April 19, 2026, 9:15 am*

*Welcome to worship at Mount Olivet! This Sunday we are celebrating the goodness of God's Creation and our responsibility as caretakers of the earth. As we worship this day, may you feel the gentle presence of the risen Christ among this community.*

### Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### PRELUDE

Voluntary in C major

John Stanley

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Earth is the Lord's and all that are in it; the world, and those who live on it.

**We gather on this fragile, yet resilient ground, seeking the Creator of all.**

We acknowledge that while the storm touches all, it does not touch all equally.

**We confess that we have built walls of safety for some, while leaving others on shifting sand.**

Let us worship the God of Justice, who calls us to repair the breach and restore the streets.

**Let us worship God in spirit, in truth, and in action.**

\*HYMN #62 All Creatures of Our God and King (vv. 1-4)

LASST UNS ERFRUEUN

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Sustainer God, architect of creation, you breathed life into dust and called it good. Yet, we confess that we have often treated your creation as a commodity rather than a community. We pray today for vision to see the cracks in our systems—where indifference and neglect have left our neighbors exposed to rising tides and altered weather patterns. Grant us the wisdom to adapt, the courage to seek justice for those who are made vulnerable, and the humility to realize that our own well-being is bound up with that of the Earth and the poor. Amen.**