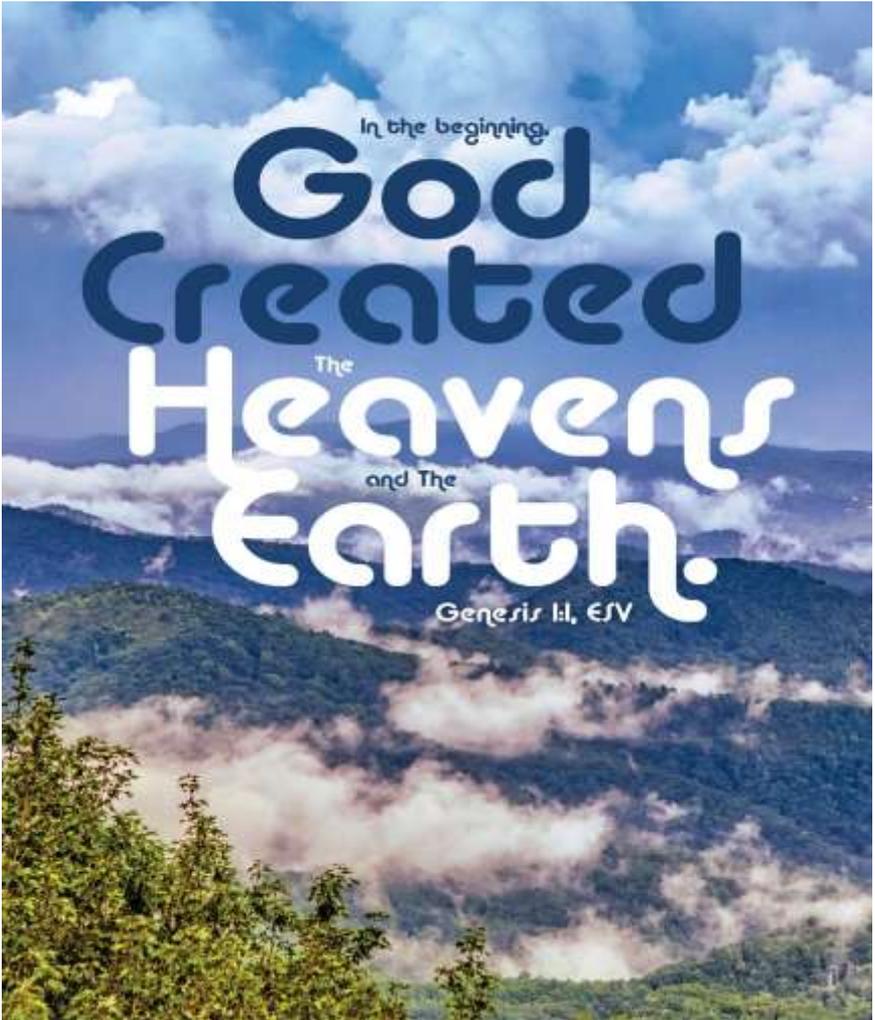


Faith Presbyterian Church

Christians growing in Faith by caring, connecting & serving community



"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"
(Genesis 1:1.)

Hi Everyone,

Tomorrow marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. The first Earth Day was celebrated 4/22/1970. I was 6 years old. How old were you on the first Earth Day and do you remember anything about it? I remember doing park clean ups as a teenager. We'd each be given a garbage bag and then we'd walk around the park, picking up bottles and cans and other kinds of trash. And I remember doing a children's message in church about Earth Day. We tossed around a beach ball painted to look like the earth and took turns catching it and giving it a squeeze before throwing it to the next person. And then we sang the old folk song, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

Today we're looking to the past. We remember and we give thanks. Today I give thanks for all the different kinds of places on the earth, especially for the ocean because I spent a lot of time there as a child, but also for the mountains, where I spent a summer after my mother died in 1987. That's when my love of hiking began, in the Blue Ridge Mountains of NC. And I give thanks for all places on this earth I've visited- for the Swiss Alps, and the warm waters of the Caribbean and the Arizona desert and the rocky coast of Nova Scotia. Can you picture all these places in your mind? Isn't it amazing how different they all are? Today we give thanks to God for the incredibly beautiful and amazingly diverse planet we call home. Amen.



The heavens declare the glory
of God; the skies proclaim the work of his
hands.

Psalm 19:1, NIV

Happy Earth Day Everyone!

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands” (Psalm 19:1.)

Hi Everyone,

Our theme this week is Earth Day. Yesterday we looked to the last 50 years of Earth Days, because the first Earth Day was held 4/22/1970, exactly 50 years ago! Today we look to the present. So first of all, go outside and look up. And then repeat this verse from Psalm 19: *“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”* Where do you see the glory of God and can you feel God’s hands at work in your life and in our world?

So as with a lot of things, there's good news as well as some more challenges to work on. First the good news: the air over the U.S. is much cleaner than it was 50 years ago, and so is our water. Rivers and lakes and even oceans have been cleaned up. And we don't use DDT or asbestos like we used to.

The challenge is that we still have things to do. This year's focus for Earth Day is climate change. Lots of factors are involved here. But here are 3 pretty easy things that we can all do to help protect the earth from climate change.

We can eat less meat because processing meat takes up a lot of energy. Try going vegetarian once or twice a week. There are so many good recipes that don't involve meat. If you really want a challenge, try vegan cooking. For that you can't use any animal products. No milk or cheese, no eggs, not even honey. So I'd start with vegetarian cooking first!

The second easy thing you can do is get some of those cloth grocery bags and use less plastic.

And the last one is related to that. Give up bottled water. Just turn on the tap and fill up your own water bottle you can use over and over again.

What other ideas do you have on how to help take care of the earth? For God's hands are at work all around us! Let's not undo the beauty God has already created. Amen.

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PSALM 102:25-27

Of old
YOU LAID
the FOUNDATION of the EARTH.
THE HEAVENS
are the WORK of YOUR HANDS.

THEY WILL
PERISH,
but You
will endure.

YES, ALL of THEM
WILL WEAR OUT
LIKE a GARMENT.
YOU WILL CHANGE THEM
LIKE a CLOAK,
& THEY WILL BE CHANGED.

But You
are the same.
YOUR YEARS WILL HAVE
no end.

Hi Everyone,

We've been talking about Earth Day this week: the past, the present, and now the future of Earth Day. In Psalms 102 we read: *"In the beginning you [God] laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish... But you remain the same, and your years will never end."*

We live in a world of constant change. Everything around us can change in an instant, as we discovered 6 weeks ago when we were asked to stay home and flatten the curve of Covid-19. The only constant is God. God remains the same, even though God's creation is constantly changing, dying, and

being reborn, over and over again. It is difficult to find our footing and feel safe in a world of constant change.

So how do we handle that? We make the best choices we can in the present, in order to help shape the future. And yes, that makes us feel pretty small sometimes. We might think, what difference does it make, eating a hamburger or a salad? Filling a plastic bag with groceries at the store, or remembering to bring my own cloth bag? Using a little bit less heat in the winter, and a little bit less AC in the summer, or saying it's my house and I'm paying for it, so it can be any temperature I want. Yes, our decisions might be no more than a drop in the bucket of climate change and caring for the earth, but that's a poor argument for doing nothing.

God knows us better than we know ourselves. Maybe God already knows what choices we'll make. But from our point of view, the future is still wide open. What kind of earth will our great grandchildren, and their children inherit? Let's do what we can to make it the best one possible, while at the same time putting our faith in God, whose love for us never ends, and ultimately knowing the future is in God's hands.
AMEN.

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