

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Easter

Youth Sunday Celebration of God's Creation – Trees

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April 19, 2026

10:50 a.m.

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## ✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

Welcome

*Rev. Bill Pollack*

Earth Care Overview and Luncheon Invitation

Senior Recognition

*Matt Dillion, Ashland Paul Blazer High School*

Prelude

*Winchester Bells*

Canticle of Praise

Kevin McChesney

† **Call to Worship** (from Psalm 34)

*Anna Goodwin*

L: Praise the Lord!

**P: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

L: Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise the Lord, sun and moon, and all you shining stars!

**P: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

L: Let heaven celebrate! Let the earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything in it roar! Let the countryside and everything in it celebrate!

**A: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

† **Hymn of Praise**

#12 (1,3,4)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we would render, O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

† **Call to Confession**

† **Prayer of Confession**

Precious God, we humbly come before You this day. We acknowledge that all creation comes from and reflects You. Lush trees are created to provide food, shelter, and protection for creatures as You intended. They stretch their branches out to You in worship and adoration. By Your creative will and design, all life forms took shape out of Your holy breath - each for its particular purpose. May we remember that all of us were fearfully and wonderfully made, our very design and purpose glorifying You. Our hearts are heavy as we cause harm to others and to our planet. We ask Your forgiveness. We pray for ourselves and all people to repent that You change us into better consumers. Creator-God, through Your power that is as gentle as a lamb and as capable as to call worlds into being, we ask that You speak to all hearts to change our ways. In Jesus' name, Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† **Response**

#245 (3)

Christ the Lord is Risen Today  
Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where's your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

✠ **We Listen to God's Word** ✠

*Youth Choir (1); Congregation (2,4,5)*

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.

Refrain:

*Lord of all, to Thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light. [Refrain]

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild. [Refrain]

For Yourself, best gift divine, to the world so freely given,  
for that great, great love of Thine  
peace on earth and joy in heaven. [Refrain]

**Prayer for Illumination**

*Dylan Lambert*

**The Old Testament Lesson:** Ezekiel 47:1–12 *John Fox McCloud*

The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. <sup>2</sup>He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side. <sup>3</sup>As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. <sup>4</sup>He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. <sup>5</sup>He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. <sup>6</sup>He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?” Then he led me back to the bank of the river. <sup>7</sup>When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the

river. <sup>8</sup> He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. <sup>9</sup> Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. <sup>10</sup> Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. <sup>11</sup> But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. <sup>12</sup> Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”

L: The Word of the Lord

**P: Thanks be to God!**

† **The Gospel Lesson:** Luke 13:6–9

*Cami Lambert*

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’”

L: This is the Holy Gospel of Christ!

**P: Thanks be to God!**

**Homily**

*Rev. Bill Pollack*

### *Lessons From a Fig Tree*

✠ **We Respond to God’s Word** ✠

† **Hymn of Response**

#32

#### I Sing the Mighty Power of God

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.

I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures through the Word and then  
pronounced them good.

Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, wherever I turn my eyes,  
if I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the skies.

There's not a plant or flower below but makes your glories known,  
and clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne;  
while all that borrows life from Thy is ever in your care,  
and everywhere that we can be,  
Thou, God, art present there.

† **Affirmation of Faith**

*Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived  
by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius  
Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into  
hell. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He  
is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to  
judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy  
catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Pastoral Prayer | Lord's Prayer (sins)**

**Offering Acknowledgement**

*Matt Dillon*

*Special Offering: Peace Offering*

† **Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† **Prayer of Dedication**

✠ **We Are Sent in God's Name** ✠

† **Hymn of Sending**

#39

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.

Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: *Great is thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand hast provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside. [Refrain]

## Postlude

### Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Healey Willan

## † Charge & Benediction

† *Standing as you are able.*

*You are cordially invited to join us in the Bethesda Community Hall for a spaghetti lunch hosted by our youth group. This will be a great opportunity for fellowship and to support our young members as they serve the congregation.*

### SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Donna Jones* | Liturgists: *Youth*

### LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 67  
General Offering: \$2,176.00  
Building Rent: \$150.00  
Easter Flowers: \$60.00  
Tru Earth/Youth: \$15.00  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$200.00  
Online Offering: \$650.00  
**Total Offering: \$3,251.00**

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

### **➔ SUNDAY, APRIL 19**

Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m.  
Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School (K–4<sup>th</sup> grade), 9:30 a.m.  
Harmony of the Gospels, 9:30 a.m.  
Youth Group (5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade), 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m.  
**Spaghetti Lunch hosted by the Youth, Noon**

### **➔ MONDAY, APRIL 20**

**Sew Blessed, 6 p.m.**

### **➔ TUESDAY, APRIL 21**

Tai Chi, 5 p.m. | Zumba, 5 p.m.  
**Finance Meeting, 5:30 p.m.**

### **➔ WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**

Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans  
Handbell Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

### **➔ THURSDAY, APRIL 23**

**Men's Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m.**

### **➔ SATURDAY, APRIL 25**

Zumba, 9:30 a.m. | Tai Chi, 11 a.m.

### **Kara's Birthday Celebration – Sunday, April 26**

Join us following worship on Sunday, April 26, as we celebrate Kara and her birthday. Kara faithfully serves as our childcare worker, providing loving care for the children of our congregation each week. Cards and other tokens of appreciation are warmly welcomed as we thank her for all she does. We hope you will join us in celebrating Kara!

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
**GRADUATION**  
*party*



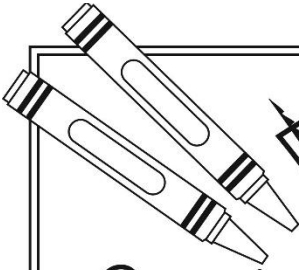
In Honor Of

*Jennifer Dillon*

Class of 2026

Sunday, 26 April 2026  
AT 2:00 PM

1600 Winchester Ave, Ashland  
KY 41101



# PUZZLE

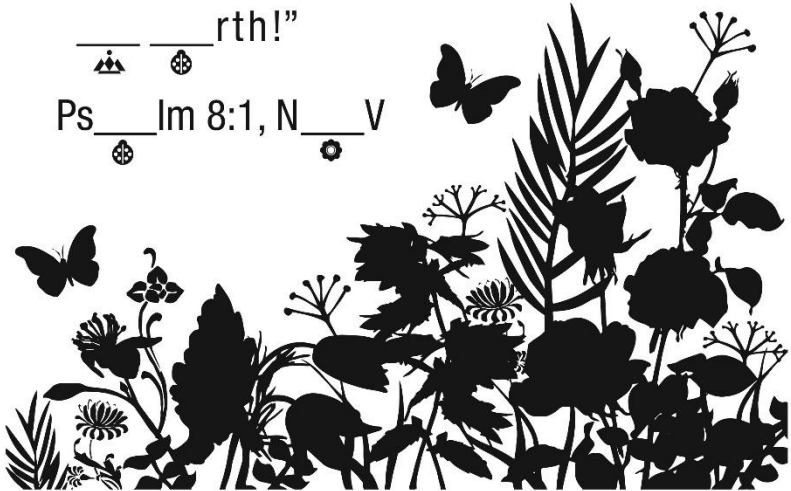
## Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

*Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.*

A =  E =  I =  O =  U = 

"L\_\_RD, \_\_ \_\_ r L\_\_rd, h\_\_w  
 m\_\_j\_\_st\_\_c \_\_s y\_\_r  
 n\_\_m\_\_ \_\_n \_\_ll th\_\_  
 \_\_ \_\_rth!"  
 Ps\_\_lm 8:1, N\_\_V



Answer: "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"  
 Psalm 8:1, NIV

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Week ending April 16, 2026

Carol Sanderson

Tracy Salmons (Nanette's niece)

### Week ending April 9, 2026

Family of Carolyn Graber

Jennifer Runyon Nelson (Kelly Hanni)

### Week ending April 2, 2026

Jacob Mollette (Glen & Christy Thomas' son)

Family of Melissa Ross (Kelly Hanni)

### **Ongoing:**

<i>Pastor Bill</i>	<i>Chris Payne</i>
<i>Christina Akers (Heather Whitman's sister-in-law)</i>	<i>Derek Payne</i>
<i>Christina Columber (Greg &amp; Geri Willis)</i>	<i>Nancy Payne</i>
<i>Bill Gesling</i>	<i>Bonnie Pettijohn</i>
<i>Charlie Holbrook</i>	<i>Tim Shepard</i>
<i>Khyler Kingery (Ashton Wheeler)</i>	<i>Jan Winans</i>
<i>Angie Lewis</i>	<i>Ann Wiseman</i>
<i>Bob Miller</i>	

**Boyd Nursing and Rehabilitation:** Kenny McGill, Sr.

**Kingsbrook Care Center:** Barry Barbour

**The Lantern:** Betty Jean Phipps

**Military:** Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, son of Kris Adkins); Cadet Katie Brown (West Point, granddaughter of Mike Whitman); Christian Brown (US Air Force, grandson of Mike Whitman); Greg Weston (Army National Guard); Lieutenant Colonel Kaitlin Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)

## STAFF

Minister: *Rev. William Pollack*  
Choirmaster/Organist: *Max Jackson*  
Administrative Assistant: *Nanette Pollack*  
Facilities Manager: *Glen Thomas*  
Nursery Attendant: *Kara Adkins*

## SESSION MEMBERS

President of Congregation: *Mitch Hall*  
Secretary of Congregation/Clerk of Session: *Kelly Hanni*  
Treasurer: *Cathy Wilson*

2026	2027	2028
<i>Mitch Hall*</i>	<i>Jimmy Hall</i>	<i>Teresa Cassity</i>
<i>Jan Holbrook</i>	<i>Lee McCloud *</i>	<i>Kelly Hanni *</i>
<i>Ryan Whitman*</i>	<i>J.T. Norris *</i>	<i>Donna Jones</i>
<i>*2nd term of service</i>		

## MINISTRY TEAMS

Building & Grounds: <i>Glen Thomas</i>	Membership: <i>Teresa Cassity</i>
Christian Education: <i>Lee McCloud</i>	Mission: <i>Donna Jones</i>
Congregational Life: <i>Cathy Wilson</i>	Personnel: <i>Janet Holbrook</i>
Finance: <i>Trish Hall</i>	Worship: <i>Ryan Whitman</i>

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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