



Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship

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April 24, 2022

Rooted and Grounded in Christ's Love (2022 Theme)

Blessing the Ground

Call to Worship

Song: *I Saw a Tree by the Riverside* VT 514

Call to Worship and Prayer Mark Schloneger

Announcements *(Please pass the friendship registers.)*

Songs: *Touch the Earth Lightly* VT 145

Creation Is a Song VT 181

Hearing God's Word

Slide Show: The Planting of the Trees (April 15-16, 2022)

Song: *Will the children?**

Children's Time James Yoder

Prayer and Offering Mark Schloneger

Scripture and Sermon Luke Gascho

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Sermon: "Pursuing Repair"

Responding

Song of Response: *The Garden Needs Our Tending Now* VT 788

Congregational Prayer Lois Stoltzfus Mast

Ground Blessing (outside)

Land Acknowledgement

Litany of Blessing: Water, Sun, Soil, Trees and Flowers

Song: *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

Prayer of the Seven Directions (José Hobday, adapted)

Benediction

insert

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Reception (outside, next to playground). Everyone is invited!

Worship Participants

AV Technician: Terry MacGregor

Song Leader: Andrea Bontrager Yoder

Accompanist: Patsy Sherer

Offertory: Hannah Norris

Ushers: Diane and Lowell Nafziger

Visuals: Roxanna Sommers

Slide Show: Phil Bauman

* *Will the children?*, written by Greg Smucker

Fellowship and Nurture Hour

Everyone is invited to participate in Sunday School. Classes begin at 11:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m. First enjoy a time of fellowship.

- INFANTS & TODDLERS (ages 0-2) – Cherub corner, Room #3
- PRESCHOOL II (age 4) – Forgiveness class, Room #2
- KINDERGARTEN (age 5) – Kindness class, Room #1
- PRIMARY (grade 1) – Peaceful class, Room #5
- MIDDLE I (grades 2-3) – Gentleness class, Room #4
- MIDDLE II (grade 4-5) – Patience class, Room #6
- JUNIOR YOUTH (grades 6-8) – off Jubilee Hall, Room #9
- HIGH SCHOOL (grades 9-12) – Room #7
- ADULTS/COLLEGE
 - Luke Gascho will present on our regional landscape, the Potawatomi and Miami people, and the impacts of settlers – Sanctuary
 - Tending Our Souls – Room #11

Litany for Ground Blessing
Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship
April 24, 2022

For the ground underneath our feet and for the skies above our heads,
THANK YOU, LORD.

For the people who walked on this ground before us,
for the people who will walk on this ground after us,
and for us who are standing on this ground now,
THANK YOU, LORD.

For animals and insects that have made their homes here,
for the birds of the air,
for the worms of the soil,
for the squirrels in the trees,
for the deer from the forest,
for the spiders and the butterflies,
for the beetles and the bees,
for rabbits and owls and foxes and crickets,
for ladybugs and lightning bugs and raccoons and finches,
THANK YOU, LORD.

For the trees and the plants that have their roots here,
for the maples, and the walnuts, and the oaks, and the elms,
for the corn and the carrots and the tomatoes and the squash,
for the wildflowers and sunflowers
for the pumpkins and peppers,
THANK YOU, LORD.

Here, we take our place with the rest of Creation
to praise you, our Creator.
Together, we say,
THANK YOU, LORD.

(Water is sprinkled)

Lord, bless this ground with water,
with rain waters that nourish the trees, plants, and animals,
with the waters of baptism that point to your grace, your forgiveness,
and our desire to follow you.
In your love, you send rain to fall on all,
In your love, may this be a place where we welcome friends, neighbors,
and strangers.

Together with you,
MAY WE BLESS THIS GROUND WITH WATER.

(Flower petals are spread)

Lord, bless this ground with the sun's warmth and light,
with the warmth and the light that cause the saplings to stretch,
the flowers to bloom, and the fruits and the vegetables to sprout,
with the warmth and the light that remind us of Jesus,
the God who is with us, the light of the world,
the vine from which we grow and bear fruit.

Together with you,
MAY WE BLESS THIS GROUND WITH WARMTH AND LIGHT.

(Soil is scattered)

Lord, bless this ground with soil that is rich and fertile,
with patient soil that welcomes and nurtures the seeds to sprout
and the trees to send roots deep and wide,
with patient soil that reminds us to listen for the Spirit,
who welcomes us, nurtures us, roots us, and grounds us in Christ's
love.

Together with you,
MAY WE BLESS THIS GROUND WITH GOOD SOIL.

(Trees are planted)

Lord, may our plans for this ground be a blessing to you and to all who walk
and dwell here.

May the walking paths take us closer to you.
May the labyrinth guide us into meditation and prayer.
May the Memorial Garden be a place of comfort and consolation.
May the community garden lead us into thanksgiving.
May the trees and the plants grow and flourish.
May the birds sing.
May the bees buzz.
And may your breeze blow
so we may seek you and find you
so we may take our place with the rest of Creation
and praise you, our Creator.

Together with you,
MAY THIS BE A PLACE OF SHALOM. AMEN.