

Worship for Sunday, April 18, 2021
Led by Reverend Jeff Knol
Music by Kathleen Connolly and the GRC Praise Team

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle – Reverend Jeff Knol

Call to Worship: *Adapted from Psalm 148*

Praise the Lord! Praise him from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

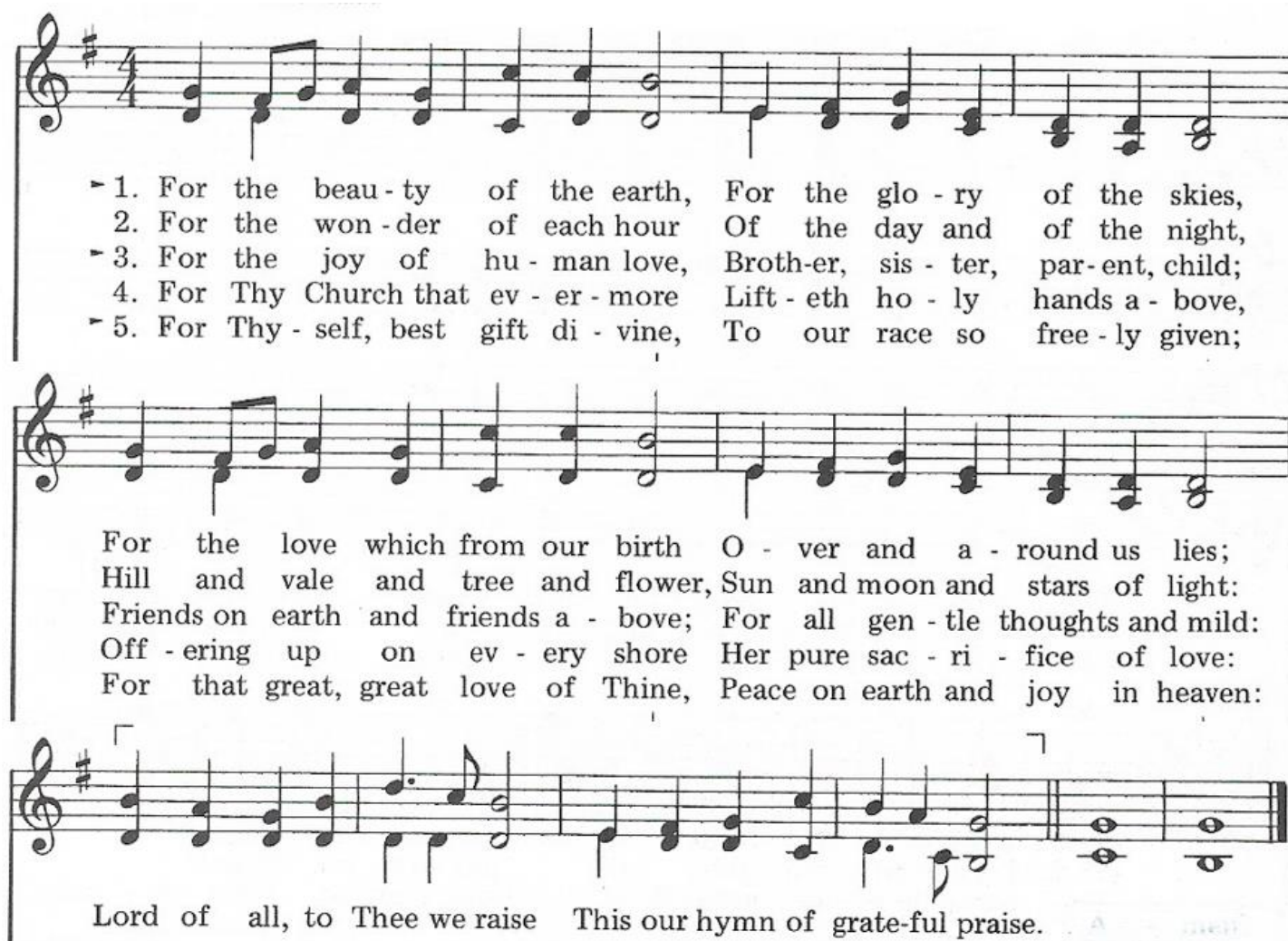
Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his
people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of God who are close
to him. Praise the Lord!

Opening Hymn: *For the Beauty of the Earth*



1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry of the skies,
 2. For the won - der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child;
 4. For Thy Church that ev - er - more Lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
 5. For Thy - self, best gift di - vine, To our race so free - ly given;

For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies;
 Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light:
 Friends on earth and friends a - bove; For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 Off - ering up on ev - ery shore Her pure sac - ri - fice of love:
 For that great, great love of Thine, Peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

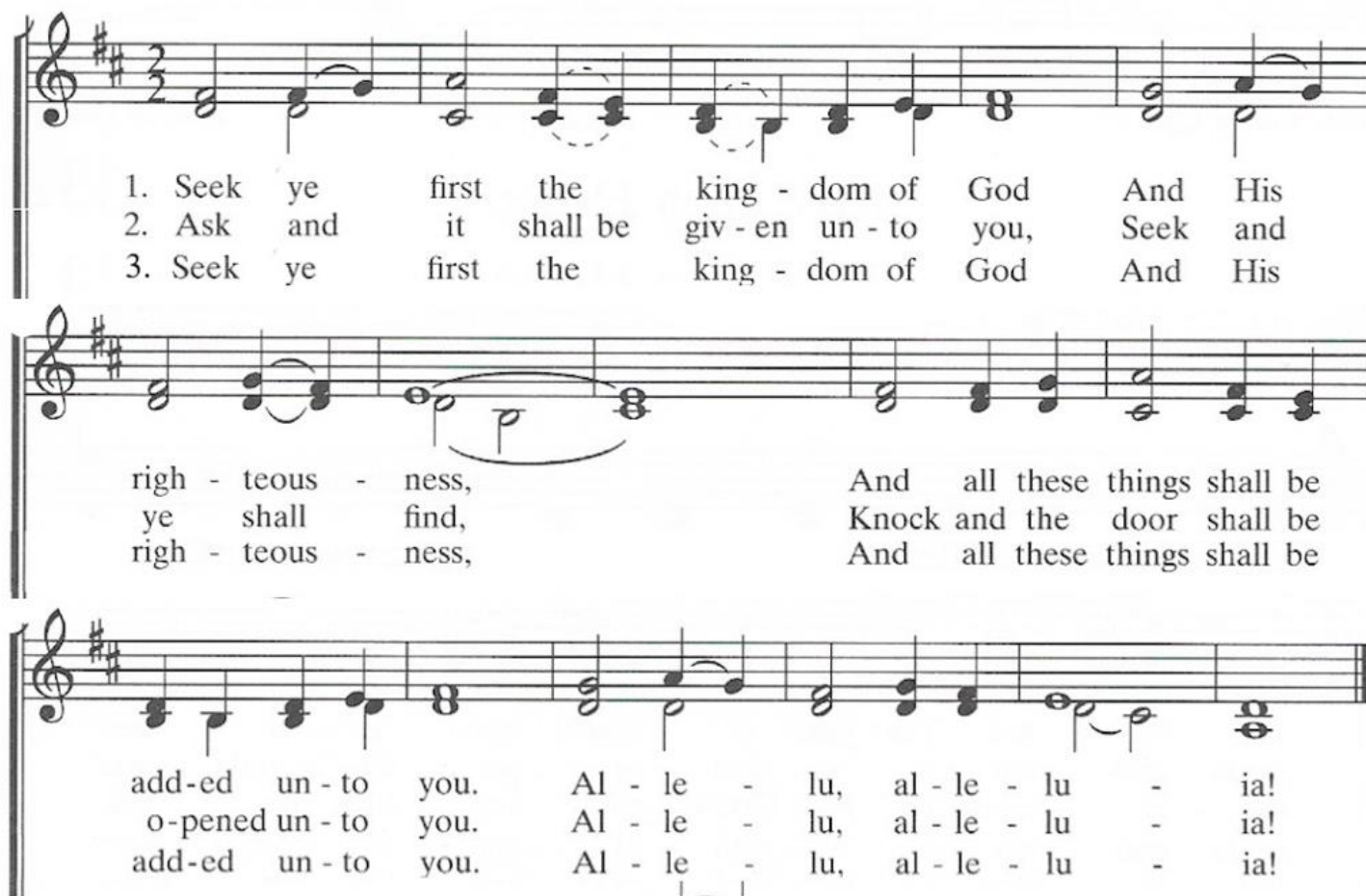
Prayer of Confession

O God, your Son remained with his disciples after the resurrection, teaching them to love you with their whole selves, and teaching them to love all people as their neighbors. We confess that as his disciples in this age, we have not faithfully followed his teaching and example. We do not love you with all our mind, heart, and strength. We do not love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us we pray, and by your Word and Spirit help us to continue to hear and accept Christ's Easter calling...*Time of Silent Reflection*

Words of Assurance

Hear these Words of Assurance inspired by John 20:19-31. On the day of Christ's resurrection his disciples were huddled in fear in an upper room. Jesus appeared to them, his hands and side still bearing the marks of his death on the cross, and he said to them, "Peace be with you." People of God, Jesus rose on Easter to give us peace. In his death and rising to new life, Jesus has atoned for our sins and ensured our peace with God. In his rising from the dead, he shows us that nothing, not even death itself can separate us from God's power and merciful love. Let us accept this good news, let us live in God's peace, and let us help to bear the message of salvation to all the world.

Seasonal Response: *Seek Ye First*



1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God And His
 2. Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and
 3. Seek ye first the king - dom of God And His

righ - teous - ness,
 ye shall find,
 righ - teous - ness,

And all these things shall be
 Knock and the door shall be
 And all these things shall be

add-ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 o-pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 add-ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture and Sermon: 1 John 3:1-7

Hymn: *This is My Father's World*



1. This is my Fa - ther's world, And to my lis - tening ears
 2. This is my Fa - ther's world, The birds their car - ols raise,
 3. This is my Fa - ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get



All na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres.
 The morn - ing light, the lil - y white, De - clare their Mak - er's praise.
 That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.



This is my Fa - ther's world: I rest me in the thought
 This is my Fa - ther's world: He shines in all that's fair;
 This is my Fa - ther's world: The bat - tle is not done;



Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—His hand the won - ders wrought.
 In the rus - tling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev - ery - where.
 Je - sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, And earth and heav'n be one.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Announcements, Celebrations, and Prayer Requests

Our Offerings to God

Blawenburg Reformed Church at PO Box 266 Blawenburg, NJ 08504

Griggstown Reformed Church at 1065 Canal Rd. Princeton, NJ 08540

Song of Praise

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: Dm, C, F, Bb, C, Dm, C, F, and C. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re - joice!".

The second staff continues the melody. Chords are: Bb, A (with a triplet of 3), Dm, C, F, and Bb. The lyrics are: "Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is".

The third staff concludes the piece. Chords are: C, Am, Dm, Bb, C, F (marked with a fermata and the word "Fine"), and Dm, C. The lyrics are: "near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near. In the".

Prayer of Dedication

O God, as his friends encountered the risen Christ, so we pray that you would send your Son into our lives. By his words and your Spirit, guide us in the path of discipleship, so that, as you have blessed us, we may be a blessing for others. Receive the gifts we dedicate and the lives we live, that they may help to bring the promise of your kingdom to all the world.

Affirmation of Faith – Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,


And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Congregational Prayers and 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: *He Lives*



1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day;
 2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care,
 3. Re - joice, re-joyce, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing

I know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er men may say;
 And tho' my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair;
 E - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!

I see His hand of mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer,
 I know that He is lead - ing thro' all the storm - y blast,
 The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,

And just the time I need Him He's al - ways near.
 The day of His ap - pear - ing will come at last.
 None oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.

Refrain

He lives, He lives, Christ Je - sus lives to - day! He walks with me and
 He lives, He lives,

talks with me a - long life's nar - row way. He lives, He lives, sal -
 He lives, He lives,

va - tion to im - part! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives with-in my heart.

Choral Benediction: *God Be With You* - GRC Praise Team

Closing Benediction and Sharing the Peace of Christ

Today's Music

For the Beauty of the Earth

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, altered

Music: Conrad Kocher; arranged by William H. Monk

Seek Ye First

Text and Music: Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)

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This is My Father's World

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock

Music: Franklin L. Sheppard

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

Text: The Community of Taizé

Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Text and Music © 1991; Les Presses de Taizé (France) admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

He Lives

Text and Music: Alfred H. Ackley

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