

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fourth Sunday of Easter

*Creation Care Sunday*

April 25, 2021

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## A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(Click [here](#) to connect to today's live worship.)

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**GATHERING MUSIC** *Fair Are the Meadows* Woodman/Fedek

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

**PRELUDE** *Like the First Bird* Gaelic tune/Fedek

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: Let the light fall warm and bright on the trees,  
let the birds sing their morning song,  
and let God's people say Amen.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: Let the sea teem with life and energy,  
let the sea creatures swim with abandon,  
and let God's people say Amen.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: Let the flowers open and the trees blossom,  
and let God's people say Amen.

**All: Amen.**

**HYMN NO. 14** *For the Beauty of the Earth* Dix

*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 ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:* (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 thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;  
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:* (Refrain)

**CONFESSION OF SIN** Susan Dunlap

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Leader: Mother God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches.

**All: Open our eyes to see.**

Leader: Creator God, your living waters are slowly being choked with harmful chemicals.

**All: Open our eyes to see.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants.

**All: Open our eyes to see.**

Leader: Saving God, your creatures are slowly dying, and your people are suffering.

**All: God our maker, forgive us.**

Leader: So move us by the wonder of creation,

**All: that we repent and care more deeply.**

Leader: So move us to grieve the loss of life,

**All: that we learn to cherish and protect your world.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Response Hymn

*Alleluia No. 1*

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris-en Lord. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Jean Cary

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Gracious God, your Word is a living word. By your Spirit awaken us, that we may see and hear your presence in the world and in the scripture that we read today. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our brother and guide. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING**

Genesis 1:1-5

Jean Cary

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**POEM**

*"The Summer Day"* by Mary Oliver

Mindy Douglas

Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean—  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,

who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—  
 who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
 Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
 Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
 I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
 I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
 into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,  
 how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
 which is what I have been doing all day.  
 Tell me, what else should I have done?  
 Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
 Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
 With your one wild and precious life?

**PSALM READING** Psalm 104 (selected verses) Jaxon Buck

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**POEM** (original based on Psalm 104) Jaxon Buck

**STORY** *"One Earth"* Lenore Champion

written by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Rogério Coelho

**HYMN No. 19** *God of Great and God of Small* *God of Great and Small*

*God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,  
 God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong,  
 Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.*

*God of land and sky and sea, God of life and destiny,  
 God of never-ending power, yet beside me every hour,  
 Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.*

*God of silence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,  
 God of day and darkest night, God whose love turns wrong to right,  
 Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.*

*God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,  
 God of now and days before, God who reigns forevermore,  
 Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.*

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING** Job 12:7-10 Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**POEM** *"The Peace of Wild Things"* by Wendell Berry Mindy Douglas

When despair for the world grows in me  
 and I wake in the night at the least sound  
 in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
 I go and lie down where the wood drake

rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world and am free.

**SERMON**

Mindy Douglas

**RESPONSE HYMN**

*Touch the Earth Lightly*  
(Sung by Brent and Lesley Curtis)

*Tenderness*

*Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently, nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender, trust for the children tomorrow will bear.*

*We who endanger, who create hunger, agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster clouds of disaster, God of our planet, forestall and forgive!*

*Let there be greening, birth from the burning, water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden, hope in God's children, regeneration that peace will complete*

*God of all living, God of all loving, God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us, using us gently and making us one.*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (in unison)

*A Declaration of Faith*

Susan Dunlap

**God created and rules in love.**

**God created all the worlds that are and upholds and rules everything.**

**God made us to care for other created things.**

**God made human beings along with all the other creatures**

**and charged them to care for the earth and all that lives on it.**

**We acknowledge we share in the interdependence that binds together all God's creation.**

**Yet God gives us power to rule and tame, to order and reshape the world.**

**We hold the earth in trust for future generations of living things.**

**The Lord forbids us to plunder, foul, and destroy the earth.**

**The Lord expects us to produce, to consume, to reproduce  
in ways that make earth's goodness available to all people  
and reflect God's love for all creatures.**

**The Lord bids us use our technical skills or beauty, order, health, and peace.**

**INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING**

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

The **Hunger for Change Offering** is received today.

Thank you for your generous giving to help alleviate hunger  
locally and around the world.

**CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS**

John Weicher

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

John Weicher

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

HYMN No. 370

*This Is My Father's World*

*Terra Beata*

*This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.  
This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world. The battle is not done:  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.*

CLOSING RESPONSES

Mindy Douglas

Leader: This we know: The earth does not belong to us.  
**All: We belong to the earth.**  
Leader: This we know: All things are connected,  
**All: like the blood that unites one family.**  
Leader: This we know: We did not weave the web of life,  
**All: we are merely a strand in it.**  
Leader: This we know: Whatever we do to the web,  
**All: we do to ourselves.**  
Leader: Let us give thanks for the gift of creation.  
**All: Let us give thanks that all things hold together in Christ.**

BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

POSTLUDE

*Let All Creation Sing*

*Lasst uns Erfreuen/Fedek*

**First Presbyterian Church** welcomes all who worship with us. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. On April 18, 83 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

The **flowers** are given to the glory of God in gratitude for all creation and are made possible by the Ted and Jerry Tyren fund for flowers.

**Many thanks** to **John Fricks, Jody Maxwell, Pat Dillon, Keith Rokoske, and Jay Klinck**, for their "behind the scenes" technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship on Sunday mornings. We are grateful to our program staff for the images accompanying today's online service.

Today's **worship texts** are taken from the Iona Worship Book. **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

The **Hunger for Change Offering** is received on the fourth Sunday of each month. These funds are sent to the Presbytery of New Hope to combat hunger locally. The Presbytery disperses the funds to hunger relief programs based on a grant application process. Urban Ministries of Durham, Presbyterian Urban Ministries, and Iglesia Emanuel are frequent recipients. In 2019 FPC's Walk-in Ministry received a grant from the Presbytery which was used to purchase blessing bag supplies. Thank you for your offering which combats hunger in our community.

**Copies of These Days** devotional books (good through June 2021) in large and regular print are available for pickup at FPC or you can request a copy be sent to you by mail. Simply call the church (919-682-5511 x 217) or email [Sybil King](mailto:Sybil.King@fpcdurham.org) to receive a copy.

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## ~ Our Celebrations and Concerns ~

### **Our Condolences:**

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to the family of **Lynn Hays**, FPC member who died April 18. A memorial service was held in the FPC Memorial Garden on April 21st. We also express our love and concern to **Gray Wilson** on the death of his grandmother, and to **Amy Cummings** on the death of her grandmother.

### **Recovering at their homes**

**Kerry Holbrook**

**Margaret Sims**

### **Care Communities:**

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bob Rankin**

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: **Arthur Clark**

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: **Phillip Herndon**

Emerald Pond: **Paul Cornsweet**

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: **Walter Chambliss**, father of Will Chambliss

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

The Laurels of Chatham County: **Ann Prospero**

### **Family and Friends of the Congregation:**

**Carolyn Bonner**, wife of Deborah Momsen-Hudson's coworker Al Bonner

**Flora Estrella**, a relative of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

**Grace**, Chris James' great-niece

**Phil Goss**, a friend of the congregation

**Peggy Mordecai**, mother of Beth Eisenson

**Ed Overton and wife Abby**, friends of Doug Butler

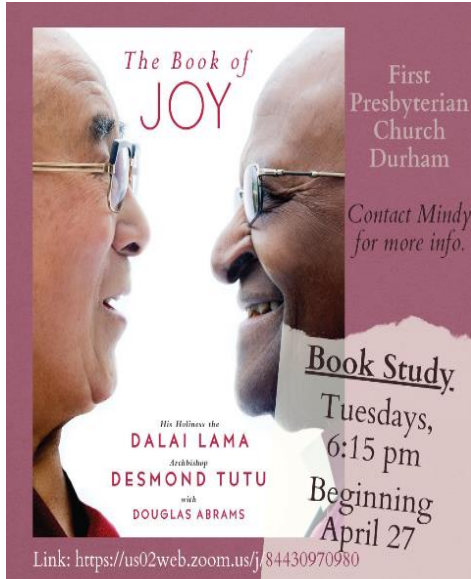
**Shannon Putman**, daughter of Mary Putman

**Carlton Rounds' mother**, who is fighting cancer. Carlton is a friend of Li-Chen Chin.

**Prayer Time in the Sanctuary!**  
**Friday, April 30 from 5:00-6:00 p.m.**

Those who signed up will come hear the organ, see dear ones, and be in prayer together. Please let staff know if you need a ride. Contact **Mitzi Lesher-Thomas** to confirm you are signed up to join us: 919-444-1249.

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**Spring Book Study**  
**Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m.**  
**beginning April 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Mindy Douglas will lead the study.**  
Click [here](#) to join via Zoom.

**About the book:** In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness's eightieth birthday and to create what they hoped would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering? This book offers readers a rare opportunity to experience their astonishing and unprecedented week together.

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**Faith Climate Action Month is upon us!**

This April/May, participate with the FPC Creation Care team with these activities:

- 1) **View/Discuss:** Virtually [screen the film Kiss the Ground for free between April 16-26](#) and join FPC's monthly Creation Care meetings; the next one is **Thursday May 15 at 7:00 p.m.** Join us for a group discussion on how regenerative agriculture has the potential to rebalance our climate, replenish our vast water supplies, and feed the world.
- 2) **Advocate:** Break free from plastic and learn about bills aimed to combat plastic pollution at its source: <https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/webinars>
- 3) **Get out:** Join the FPC Community clean-up with Keep Durham Beautiful, **Saturday, May 8 at Long Meadow Park, 9:00-11:30 a.m.**
- 4) **Sign up:** for the Creation Care Team's newsletter for continued information on greening our congregation and caring for God's creation: <https://mailchi.mp/cba62ad25247/fpc-durham-creation-care-info>

**JOIN US ...**  
**Pop-Up, Play, Pray, and Plan**  
**Saturday, May 8**  
**9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
**Camp New Hope**

**9:00 a.m.** - Bring your coffee / enjoy some conversation

**10:00 a.m.** - Join us for a child friendly devotion at the amphitheater by the lake

**10:30 - 11:45 a.m.** - Lenore Champion will provide some programming for children, while adults have time to reconnect and plan for the upcoming year

**11:45 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.** - Pack your own picnic and plan to hang around and enjoy some fellowship time at camp.

Questions/concerns contact [Mitzi](#).

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**Volunteers needed at Urban Ministries**

For years, FPC has committed to provide volunteers to help prepare and serve meals at Urban Ministries of Durham. Even through the pandemic, members of FPC have faithfully served as volunteers. If you are fully vaccinated and can serve again, please know that you are needed. As always, only volunteer when you are comfortable doing so. FPC's next opportunity is **Friday, April 30**, to prepare breakfast and fill take-out boxes, 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. Contact [Jen McGonigle](#) to sign up for a slot or call her at 202-421-5870. If you have interest in serving at Urban Ministries at other times and in other ways, let Jen know. Click this link: <https://umdurham.org/get-involved/opportunities.html> to see other available opportunities.

**Multiplying the Blessings**

At the Iglesia Emanuel Food Pantry, we see miracles every week. We prepare for 550 families. 590 families show up, and there is enough food for all. Come, be part of the miracle at 2504 N. Roxboro. Join other volunteers for a 2-hour shift, bag rice and beans from home, donate food, or give a financial donation. Together, we will continue to spread God's love throughout our community in this most tangible way. To sign up for a 2-hour shift, click [here](#). To bag rice and beans from home, or donate food, click [here](#). To make a financial donation, go to [www.emanueldurham.org](http://www.emanueldurham.org) and click on donate." More questions? Contact [Margaret Rubiera](#).

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*Tom Bloom*, Business Administrator  
*Lenore Champion*, Children's Ministry Director  
*Mindy Douglas*, Pastor/Head of Staff  
*Susan Dunlap*, Parish Associate  
*Sybil King*, Administrative Assistant



For more

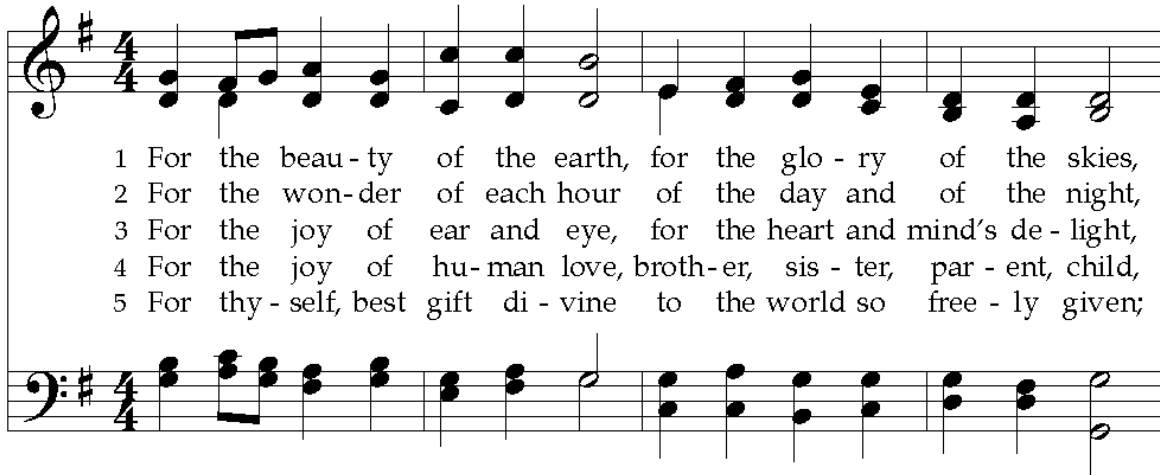
*Mitzi Lesher-Thomas*, Associate Pastor  
*Valerie McMillian*, Parish Administrator  
*Kathy Parkins*, Minister of Music  
*John Weicher*, Associate Pastor

information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:  
[info@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:info@firstpres-durham.org) or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

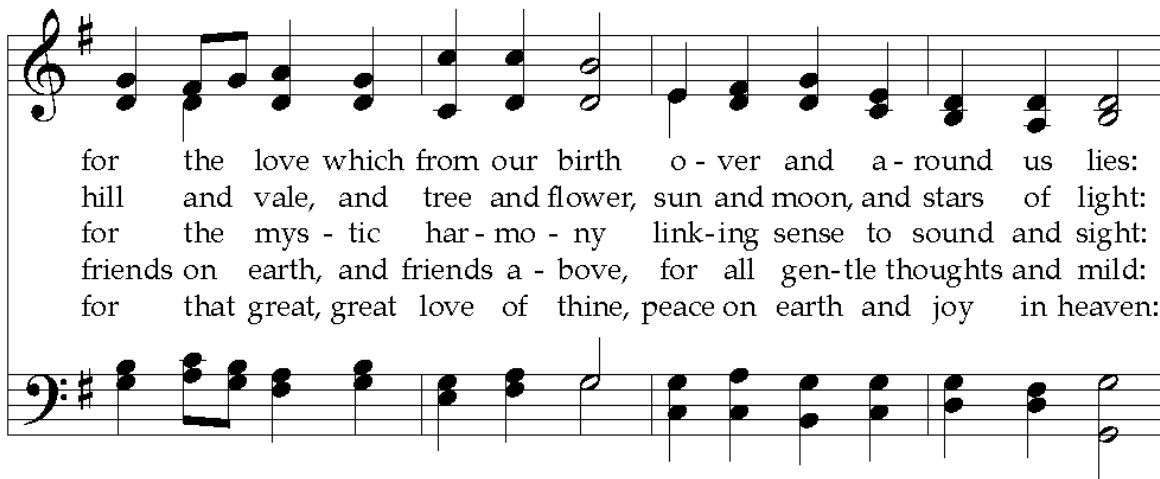


# For the Beauty of the Earth

14



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 ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



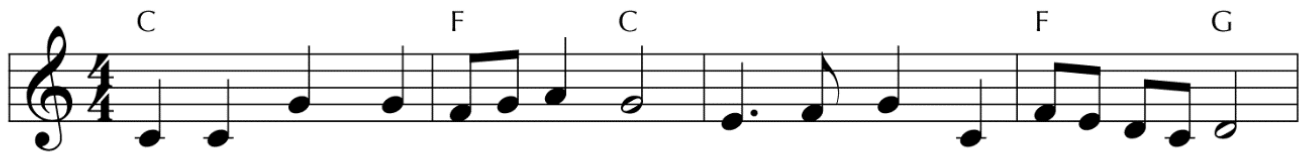
for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

## Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

# God of Great and God of Small 19



1 God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,  
2 God of land and sky and sea, God of life and des - ti - ny,  
3 God of si - lence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,  
4 God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,



God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things be - long,  
God of nev - er - end - ing power, yet be - side me ev - ery hour,  
God of day and dark - est night, God whose love turns wrong to right,  
God of now and days be - fore, God who reigns for - ev - er - more,

## Refrain



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, praise be to your name.

# This Is My Father's World 370

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis - tening ears all  
2 This is my Fa-ther's world. O, let me ne'er for - get that

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It features a treble and bass staff. The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4 and B4, then a half note C5. The bass line consists of a series of chords: G2-B2-D3, F2-A2-C3, G2-B2-D3, and F2-A2-C3.

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

The second system continues the melody and bass line. The treble staff melody includes notes D5, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, and D4. The bass line continues with chords: G2-B2-D3, F2-A2-C3, G2-B2-D3, F2-A2-C3, G2-B2-D3, F2-A2-C3, and G2-B2-D3.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
This is my Fa-ther's world. The bat - tle is not done: Je -

The third system continues the melody and bass line. The treble staff melody includes notes D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, and D3. The bass line continues with chords: G2-B2-D3, F2-A2-C3, G2-B2-D3, F2-A2-C3, G2-B2-D3, F2-A2-C3, and G2-B2-D3.

rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the won - ders wrought.  
sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth and heaven be one.

The fourth system concludes the melody and bass line. The treble staff melody includes notes D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F2, E2, and D2. The bass line continues with chords: G2-B2-D3, F2-A2-C3, G2-B2-D3, F2-A2-C3, G2-B2-D3, F2-A2-C3, and G2-B2-D3.