

The First Church in Albany

honors

Earth Day

Sunday, April 21, 2024

The First Church in Albany
(Reformed Church in America)

Founded in 1642;
Continuing in Ministry
Today.

In response to God's unconditional love for all people made known to us in Jesus Christ, we are called to be a welcoming and affirming community. The First Church in Albany includes young and old, families, couples and singles, rich and poor, persons of various races, ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientation and gender identities, differing physical and mental abilities, believers and seekers. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where we are loved.

Prelude Reflection Psalm 81:16b

“With honey from the rock, I will satisfy you.”

Prelude “*For the Beauty of the Earth*”

Kocher/Monk, arr. Evanovich

Gloria Norton, organ and Abby Norton Levering, violin

Tolling of Bell

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

Isaiah 55:1 ESV

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and food without price.”

Call to Worship creationcare.org

Votum: Bless the Lord Oh my soul. **Together let us bless God's holy name. Amen.**

Leader: We who too often lose our way gather today to say,

People: “The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for God founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.”

Leader: And yet those same waters are polluted by the plastics we have made and discarded. We pause to ask ourselves again what if creation was liberated and experiencing freedom and glory?

People: Along with all creation we wait for the glory of God to be revealed and we commit to playing our part, as the children of God.

Leader: May we find liberation from our plastic addiction and healing for our land and water. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *"All Creatures of Our God and King"* (see insert)

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess our dependence on quick and easy. Quick and easy have become our gods. We confess that we know the use of plastics is hurting the oceans and yet we continue in our ways. We know that there is so much plastic in our world it is turning up in our bodies, and yet we still reach for plastic out of convenience. Forgive us for forgetting that we are not alone. We are not your only creation. Forgive us for not showing compassion to the water, birds, fish, air, moon, stars, soil, and trees. Help us respect all of your creation including your planet.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law Exodus 20:2-6 (NRSV)

God said, I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us spend a few moments greeting one another.

Children's Message & Blessing

Prayer for Illumination *Please sing*

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!

Sermon Text Deuteronomy 32:1-20 (NIV)

Listen, you heavens, and I will speak; hear, you earth, the words of my mouth. Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.

I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

They are corrupt and not his children; to their shame they are a warped and crooked generation. Is this the way you repay the Lord, you foolish and unwise people? Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you?

Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you. When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel. For the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance.

In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye, like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft. The Lord alone led him; no foreign god was with him.

He made him ride on the heights of the land and fed him with the fruit of the fields. He nourished him with honey from the rock, and with oil from the flinty crag, with curds and milk from herd and flock and with fattened lambs and goats, with choice rams of Bashan and the finest kernels of wheat. You drank the foaming blood of the grape.

Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; filled with food, they became heavy and sleek. They abandoned the God who made them and rejected the Rock their Savior. They made him jealous with their foreign gods and angered him with their detestable idols. They sacrificed to false gods, which are not God—gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your ancestors did not fear. You deserted the Rock, who fathered you; you forgot the God who gave you birth.

The Lord saw this and rejected them because he was angered by his sons and daughters. "I will hide my face from them," he said, "and see what their end will be; for they are a perverse generation, children who are unfaithful.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Sweet Honey from a Rock?

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response**

"Praise This God of All "

(see insert)

Profession of Faith *Belgic Confession, Article II*

Leader: We know God by two means:

People: First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God: God's eternal power and divinity, as the apostle Paul says in Romans 1:20. All these things are enough to convict humans and to leave them without excuse.

Leader: Second, God makes himself known to us more clearly by his holy and divine Word, as much as we need in this life, for God's glory and our salvation.

Tithes & Offerings "It is in giving we often receive."

If you would like to connect more with the life and mission of First Church, please fill out a Welcome Card found in your pew and place it in the offering as it goes by.

Offertory

"What a Wonderful World"

Thiele and Weiss

Gloria Norton, organ and Abby Norton Levering, violin

***Doxology** #592 in pew hymnal

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayers of the People creationcare.org

Creator God,

Thank you for the many good gifts you have given us — so much beauty and abundance in creation all around us.

Give wisdom and soft hearts to those involved in the negotiations. We pray for each of the 20 million waste pickers around the world who do vital work. They collect plastics for recycling and yet are often overlooked and underpaid. Let their voices be heard and their human rights and livelihoods protected. Oh, God, help us not to throw away opportunities to care for your creation.

The earth is yours, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.

Help us fulfill Jesus' call to love our neighbors and take action to look out for one another. We remember the people on the frontline of plastic pollution. We pray to you, Lord, that you protect them from the diseases and flooding that come with plastic pollution and that they may find comfort in you.

The earth is yours, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.

We pray for the global church, for all the communities and people affected by plastic pollution, that you may keep them close to you. Help us to restore and care for this beautiful earth you blessed us with. Amen!

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

***Sending Hymn** *"What Does the Lord Require of You "* 3X (see insert)

***Charge & Blessing**

"If you have people who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have people who will deal likewise with their fellow humans." - attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

Postlude *"All Creatures of Our God and King"* Dan Miller

Nominate Office Bearers until May 5th: If you nominate someone, please place it in the offering plate or Rev. Trey's mailbox.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Organist: Gloria Norton

Specialists/Musicians: Abby Norton Levering, violin

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & JOYS

- For Kathy Stallmer, friend of Ned and Kathie Monthie, for comfort on her health journey
- For Susan, Ruth Pagerey's sister-in-law with a broken hip
- For Renee Darcy, friend and neighbor of Shirley Bone, going through major surgery. *(with permission)*
- Brett, friend of Revd Trey.
- Rob Van Dyke, friend of Doug and Jill Persons with medical concerns.
- Jill Persons and Jill's mother in England who is transitioning to nursing care.
- Michelle Williams, for recovery
- Matt, cousin of Barb Andrews with health issues
- Rev. Dr. Mashona as she continues her health journey
- Mia Westman
- Becky Gardner
- Ginny Giguere
- Donna Schultz
- Jeff Curry
- Carol LaBatte
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, with continued health concerns
- Charnelle Jones
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley-Suess
- Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany as they plan Holy Week Events.
- For those dealing with climate disasters like wildfires.
- Prayers for Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and all areas of conflict across the globe. May we all remember to lead with love.
- For an end to gun violence here in Albany, in the U.S., and around the world.

If you have a concern or joy you would like to share with our church family, email office@firstchurchinalbany.org or call the office at 518-463-4449

= HAPPY = Retirement

Kim Reohr has retired from her position as Account Manager, and as a token of appreciation for 12+ years of dedication and diligent management of the church's financial operation, the church would like to take up a collection up for Kim, all contributions will be taken up to March 24th

-The Joint Boards

Welcome to our new part-time accountant, David Hallenbeck.

A Service of Installation

Rev. Trey Tirpak, as Associate Minister

Sunday,
April 28, 2024
at 3pm
at
the First
Church
in Albany



The Classis of Albany and the First Church in Albany will gather to formally install Rev. Trey Tirpak to be First Church's Associate Minister. Food and fellowship to follow. All are welcome!

firstchurchinalbany.org

The First Church in Albany, 110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207 518-463-4449

Soup & Sandwiches
in
Clee Park

Thursdays at 11:30am-1pm

**SEASON ENDS
APRIL 25**

Everyone is welcome
and there is no charge!

#firstchurchinmotion

110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207





April 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 	1 	2 Primary Polling Place	3 AA	4 11:30am Potluck & First Thursday Night of Worship	5	6
7 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Communion Sunday Crop Walk Rally 3pm	8 	9 	10 AA	11 11:30am Potluck & First Thursday Night of Worship	12	13
14 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Communion Sunday	15 15 Churches for Middle East Peace 6:30pm	16 	17 AA Weathervanes	18 11:30am	19	20 Clee Park Clean Up Day 9am
21 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour 	22 	23 FOCUS Board Mtg.	24 AA Dutch Settlers Meeting 6pm	25 11:30am	26 Castle Island Feria de Español 10am	27
28 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Choir Rehearsal 2pm Installation of Rev. Trey Tirpak 3pm	29 	30 				

Key:



Indoor
Worship
10am



Communion
Sunday



Coffee
Hour



Pantry
9am



Centering
Prayer 12pm



Book
Study



Soup &
PB&J
11:30am



Choir
Rehearsal



Weathervanes



First Church in Albany

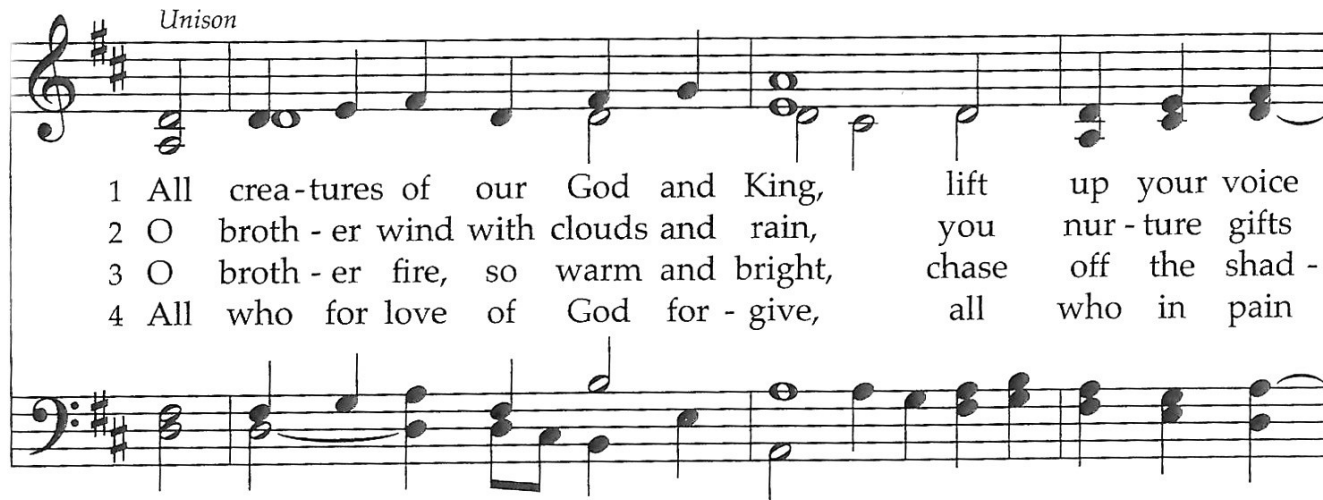
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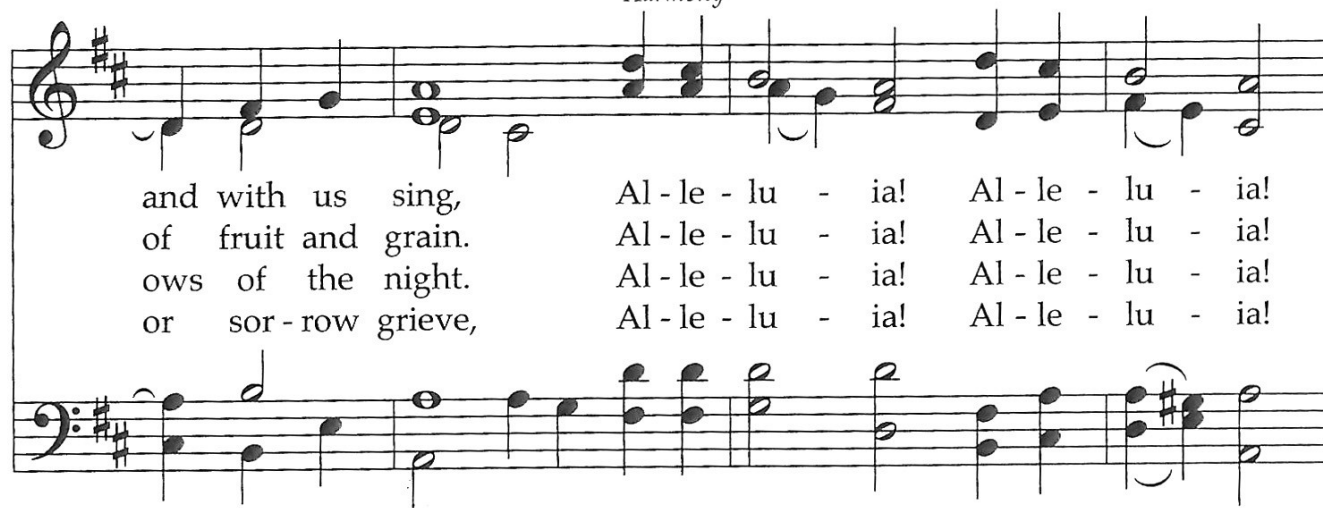
All Creatures of Our God and King

Unison



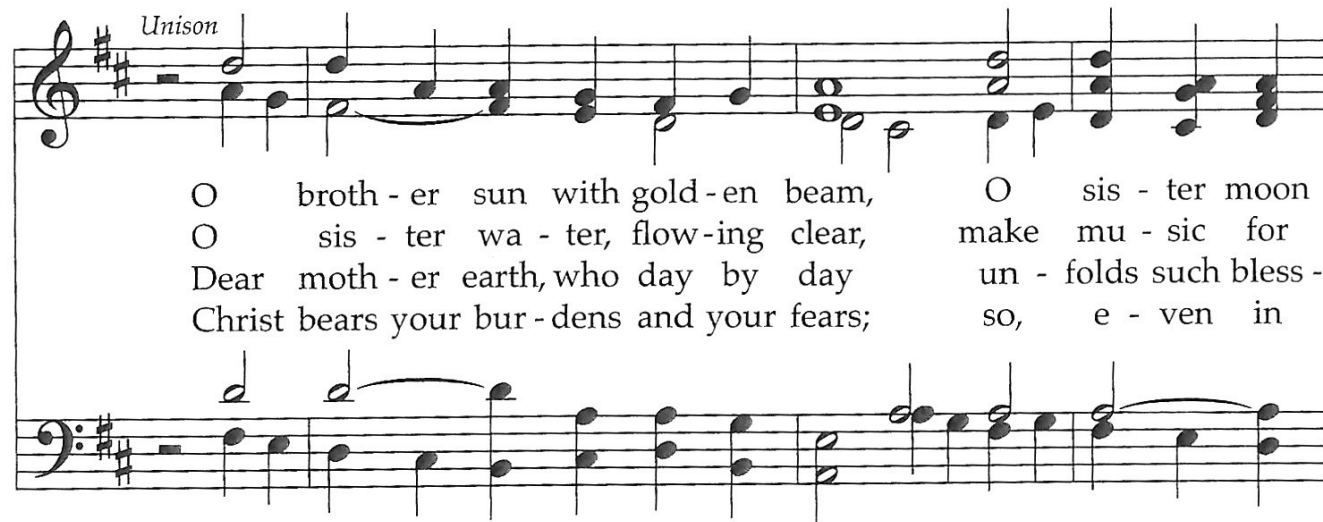
1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
2 O broth - er wind with clouds and rain, you nur - ture gifts
3 O broth - er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad -
4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain

Harmony



and with us sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
of fruit and grain. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
ows of the night. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
or sor - row grieve, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



O broth - er sun with gold - en beam, O sis - ter moon
O sis - ter wa - ter, flow - ing clear, make mu - sic for
Dear moth - er earth, who day by day un - folds such bless -
Christ bears your bur - dens and your fears; so, e - ven in

Harmony

with sil - ver gleam, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 your Lord to hear. Sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ings on our way, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 the midst of tears, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

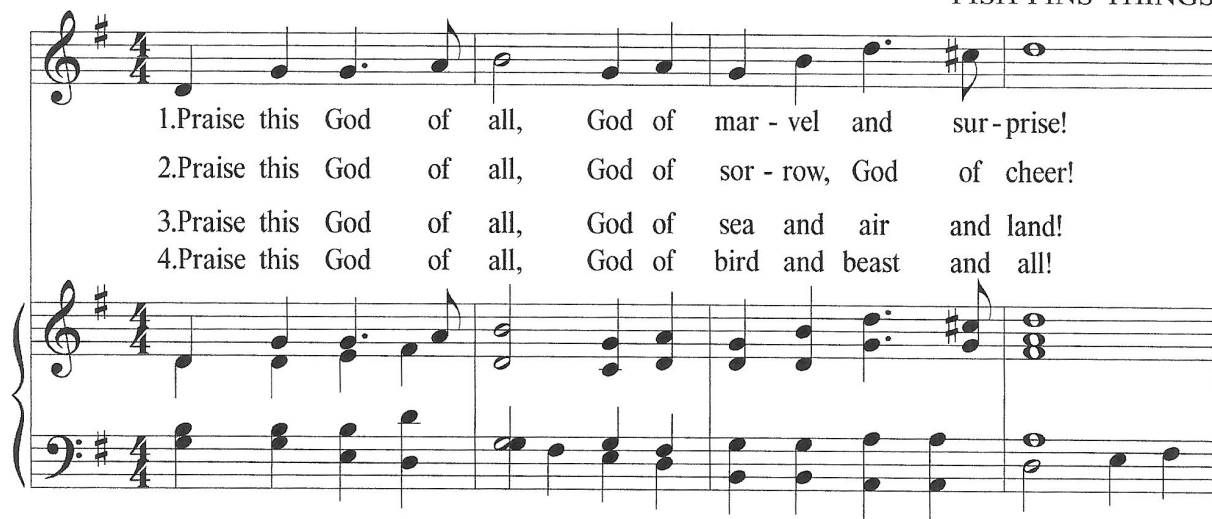
Praise This God of All

John Core 2010

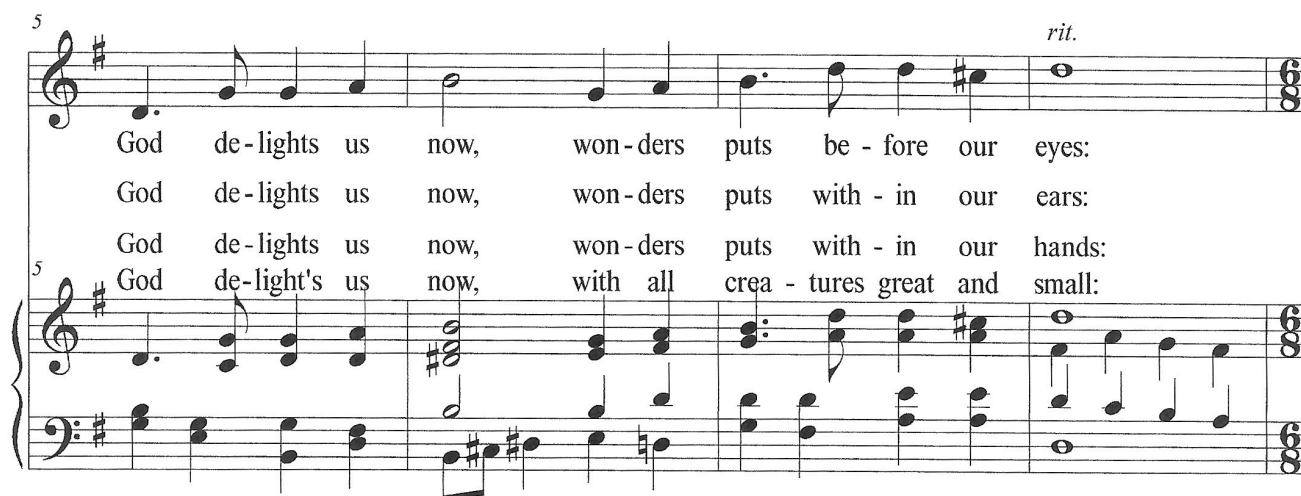
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Iteke Prins 2019


FISH-FINS-THINGS



1.Praise this God of all, God of mar - vel and sur - prise!
2.Praise this God of all, God of sor - row, God of cheer!
3.Praise this God of all, God of sea and air and land!
4.Praise this God of all, God of bird and beast and all!



5
God de - lights us now, won - ders puts be - fore our eyes:
God de - lights us now, won - ders puts with - in our ears:
God de - lights us now, won - ders puts with - in our hands:
5 God de - light's us now, with all crea - tures great and small:
rit.



9 *con brio*
deer that dash, fish that splash, flit - ing flies and gli - ding birds,
mour - ning dove, lark a - bove, dol - phin's chat, hoot - ing owl,
fea - thers, fins, wrin kly skins, hard, tough horns, and clam - my scales,
9 ev' - ry paw, hand, and claw, ev' - ry hide and horn and hair.

13 *rit.* *a tempo* Verses 1-3

state - ly whales, sli-ther-ing snails, soar - ing rap - tors, plod - ing herds.
 bark - ing dog, grunt ing hog, his - sing snake and gray wolf's howl.
 slipp - 'ry sides, fur - ry hides, shells as tough as i - ron nails.
 All God makes for our sakes, trus - ting them in -

Verse 4

17

to our care.

What Does the Lord Require of You

MICAH 6:8

May be sung as a canon

① B^b F Gm Dm E^b

What does the Lord re - quire of you? What does the

B^b Cm F B^b ② B^b F/A

Lord re - quire of you? Jus tice,

Gm Dm E^b B^b/D Cm7 F

kind - ness, walk hum-bly with your

B^b ③ F/A Gm Dm

God. To seek jus - tice and love kind-ness

E^b B^b/D Cm7 F B^b D.C. B^b Fine

and walk hum-bly with your God. God.