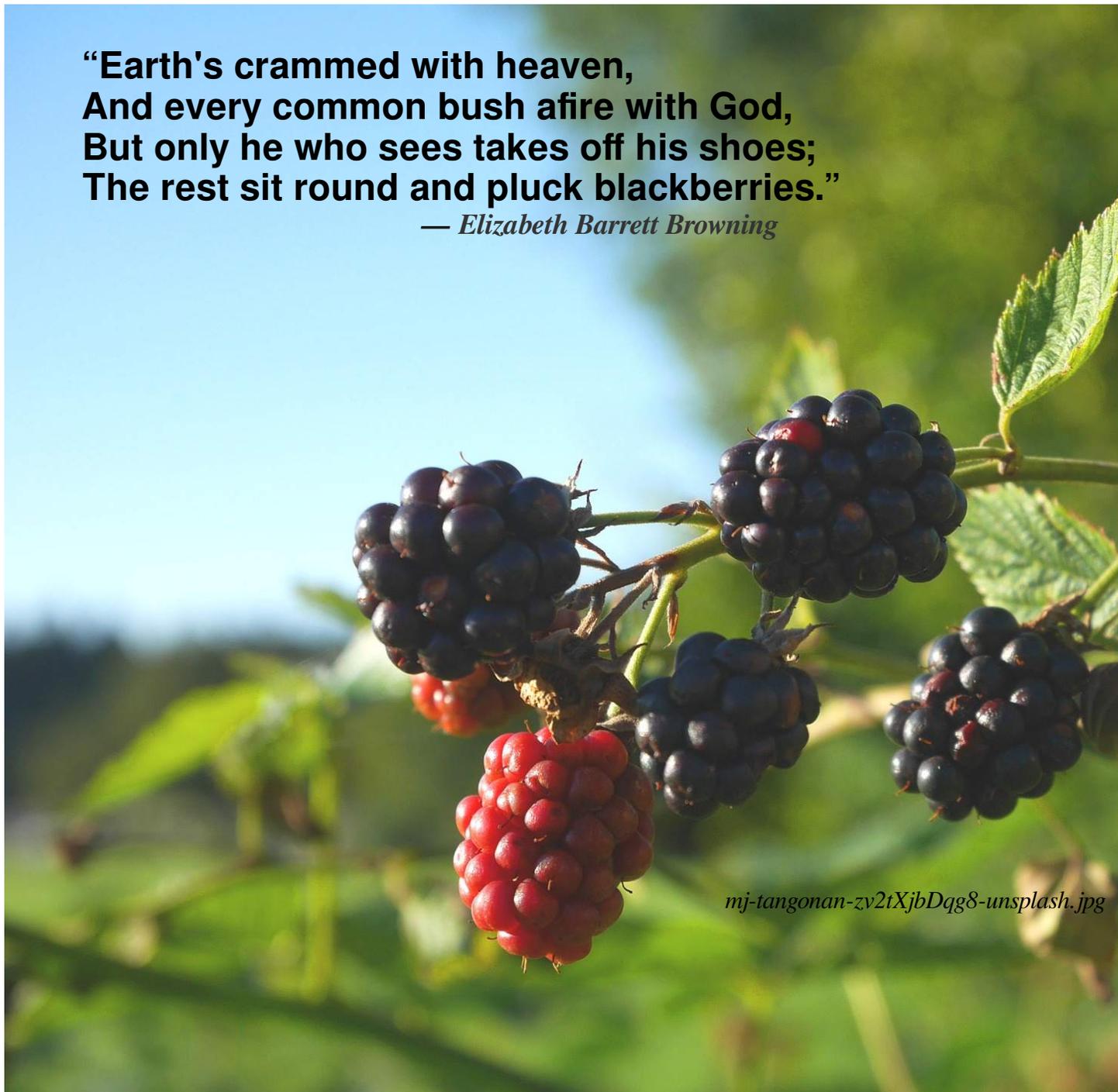


**“Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God,
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries.”**

— Elizabeth Barrett Browning



mj-tangonan-zv2tXjbDqg8-unsplash.jpg



Hyattstown-Clarksburg United Methodist Parish

Pastor: *Dave Hodsdon*, revdwhodsdon@verizon.net

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPzJQEVdc60apduOgx0Jm3Q>

Clarksburg United Methodist Church

<https://www.facebook.com/clarksburgmdumc/>

<https://clarksburgmdumc.org/>

23425 Spire St., Clarksburg, Maryland

CUMC Accompanist: *Rick Beede*

CUMC Choir Director: *Cathy Warfield*

Hyattstown United Methodist Church

<https://www.facebook.com/Hyattstown-United-Methodist-Church-146846181999711/>

26121 Frederick Rd, Clarksburg, Maryland

HUMC Accompanist: *Tim Bossler*

On YouTube this Week

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLY5iZ1NS28HTiZRfyrzqqmMD8rlcivF1>

Sunday Worship 1 - Prayers and Praise - 9:00 am

Sunday Worship 2 - Responding to the Word - 9:30 am



All Previous Lent and Easter Videos remain available for viewing.

FESTIVAL OF CREATION / EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER **APRIL 25, 2021**

ORDER OF WORSHIP - SEGMENT 1

9:00AM

PRAYERS AND PRAISE

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken
Rick-Hymnal 145-2v-no lyrics.mkv

145

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 24

*The earth is the Lord's, and all that is upon it.
The entire world, and all those dwelling in it. ...*

CALL TO CELEBRATION

*Adapted From Taylor W. Burton-Edwards
Christ is with us.*

The Holy Spirit is among us and in us!

Ignite our hearts!

Raise your hands! Lift your voices!

Father, we are yours!

**We are yours, all yours, blessed Triune God,
all our lives, all our thanks, all our praise,
all our hesitations, all our grumbling, all our fears,
we give it all to you, with all our bodies, and minds, and voices.**

HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful
Rick-Hymnal 147-4v-lyrics-2bedit.mkv

147

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 8

paraphrase DWH

⁴ *What are human beings, that you consider them?
Why should we expect you to visit us?*

⁵ *But you have made humans but little lower than angels,
And you crown us with glory and honor.*

⁶ *You have given us responsibility for the works of your hands;
You have put all things at our feet:*

⁷ *All sheep and oxen, even the beasts of the field,*

⁸ *The birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,*

*What ever can be found at the reaches of the oceans,
ALL things.*

⁹ *O Lord God, our Sovereign
How excellent is your name in all the earth!*

REFLECTION

Thomas Merton (from a 1965 audio recording)
Quoted in "The God We Never Knew" by Marcus Borg

*"Life is this simple. We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent,
and God is shining through it all the time. ... The only thing is that we don't see it."*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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Providence United Methodist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina,
<https://www.providenceumc.org>

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen:
You place us in your creation,
and you command us to care for it.
Your works declare glory and splendor,
and you call us to praise and reverence.
Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty,
forgive us.
Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted,
have mercy upon us.
Where we have become estranged from the creatures
with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace.
Renew us in the waters of baptism,
refresh us with the winds of your spirit,
and sustain us with the bread of life.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
and for the sake of the new creation, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

God, You Made Your Good Creation
BEACH SPRING
Dean McIntrye-GBOD- 581.mp3

581

God, you made your good creation and you hold it in your care —
From each starry constellation to each forest under-layer.
Tiny creatures, mountain splendor, rivers, lakes and ocean floors —
You are loving, kind and tender in your care for what is yours.

Yet, O God, the earth is crying, times are changing, storms are strong.
Now the coral reefs are dying, floods are raging, droughts are long.
Though the circumstances differ, when the earth is in distress,
See! The poor are first to suffer from our greed and selfishness.

God, you love this world we live in, so you sent your only Son.
"Here on earth as in your heaven," God, we pray, "Your will be done."
By your Spirit, may we listen to the earth and to the poor;
May we care for all you've given till creation is restored.

*Biblical References: Genesis 1-2; Psalm 8,24,104; Romans 8:19-23;
1 John 3:17; John 3:16; Matthew 6:10; Revelation 21:5
Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White
("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")
Text: Copyright © 2016 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.
Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/
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PRAYER OF LAMENT

(Psalm 4)

~ written by Ruth Jarman and posted on the Christian Ecology Link website.
<http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/archives/1055>

“Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God.

**Give me relief from my distress;
be merciful to me and hear my prayer.”**

*How long, O men and women,
will you turn the glory of the earth into dangerous pollution?
How long will you love the delusion of consumerism
and seek the false gods of money and possessions?*

**Help us to remember that
you have set apart the godly for yourself;
that you will hear us when we call to you.**

*In our exasperation and anxiety do not let us lose hope;
when we have quiet times in the day,
let us search our hearts and be silent.
Help us to live our lives sacrificially
and to trust in the Lord.*

<silent prayers>

*Many are asking, “What is the point?
The earth is finished. Who can save us now?”*

**“Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.
You have filled my heart with greater joy
than when their grain and new wine abound.
I will lie down and sleep in peace,
for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.”**

HYMN

This Is My Father's World

Rick-Hymnal 144-3v-lyrics-2bedit.mkv

144

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

~ written by Walter Rauschenbusch (1861-1918)

**O God, We thank you for this earth, our home;
for the wide sky and the blessed sun,
for the ocean and streams,
for the towering hills and the whispering wind,
for the trees and green grass.**

**We thank you for our senses
by which we hear the songs of birds,
and see the splendor of fields of golden wheat,
and taste autumn's fruit,
rejoice in the feel of snow,
and smell the breath of spring flowers.**

**Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty;
and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing
when even the common thorn bush
is aflame with your glory.**

**For each new dawn is filled with infinite possibilities
for new beginnings and new discoveries.
Life is constantly changing and renewing itself.
In this new day of new beginnings with God,
all things are possible.**

**We are restored and renewed in a joyous awakening
to the wonder that our lives are and, yet, can be. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 8:18-25

World English Bible (WEB)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of decay into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now. ²³ Not only so, but ourselves also, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For we were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for that which he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for that which we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

adapted from a "Call to Worship"
~ posted on The Minor Keys. <http://theminorkeys.blogspot.ca/>
As followers of Christ, we are called to bring
a hopeful understanding of our world
declaring that God called the created universe "good."

**We are called to bring this hope in God
with us wherever we go
declaring that God makes all things new again.**

*Jesus taught that we should love God
and love one another.*

**So let's live daily, united in our love of God
in all of life, offering our worship
and giving our thanks and praise.**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF PRAISE

~ posted on Third Space. <http://third-space.org.uk/>

**O Divine Breath,
You breathe and all things spring to life;**

*O Divine Voice,
You sing and the universe comes into being;*

**O Divine Flesh,
You are born among us,
and the Creator is clothed in creation;**

*O Divine Word,
You call and creation is sustained;*

**O Divine Life,
You are the pulse of all that is.**

*O Divine Spirit,
You fill all that has been formed;*

**In you all things live and move and have being,
In all things, you live and move
and express your Divine artistry;
And so we join with creation
in the eternal song of worship and wonder...**

*And so, in amazement and awe,
in wonder and celebration
we marvel at this mystery:*

CLOSING COMMISSION AND PRAYER

*~ from Christian Aid and Christian Ecology Link.
Posted on Third Space blog. <http://third-space.org.uk/blog>
May we always walk gently upon the Earth,
in right relationship,
nurtured by your love,
open to the wind of the Spirit,
taking only what we need,
always open to the needs of others,
making choices that bring wellbeing,
living with generosity,
striving for justice,
honouring all with reverence,
reconciling and peacemaking,
mindful of those who will come after,
recognising* our proper place as part of your creation.*

**Note: this word may be properly spelled with either a "z" or an "s".
The "zed" variant is found more in the UK than elsewhere,
but this piece does come from the UK,
and both spellings are accepted,
so I did not "mend" it.*

**Grant us the strength and courage, Lord,
for such a radical transformation into your Kingdom.
Amen.**

ORDER OF WORSHIP II
4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

9:30AM
APRIL 25, 2021

**INTERLUDE /
PRELUDE**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Dean McIntyre-GBOD- 381.mp3

381

OPENING WORDS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ps. 23:1; John 10:14-16

FotW

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He lays down his life for his sheep.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He knows us, and we belong to him.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He speaks, and we listen for his voice.

SCRIPTURE

(Psalm 23)

KJV

²³ **The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

² **He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

³ **He restoreth my soul:**

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

⁵ **Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

HYMN

Lord, You Are My Shepherd
Rick-Hymnal 098-20Jul19.mp4

98

Lord, you are my shepherd and so I am blessed;

You make me lie down in green pastures to rest.

You lead me beside the still waters, O Lord;

In you I find peace and my soul is restored.

Refrain: **In this world, there is much that can tempt me away,
Yet in you, I'm content, as you guide me each day.
O Lord, I don't need to feel lost or alone;
For you are my Shepherd and I am your own.**

You lead me to do what is just, in your name;

You guide me through valleys of death and deep pain.

I'll fear nothing evil with you by my side;

Your rod and your staff, Lord, will comfort and guide. *Refrain*

You set me a table right here by my foes;

You bless me with joy till my cup overflows.

Your goodness and mercy will follow me through;

I'll live in your presence, forever with you. *Refrain*

*Lord, You Are My Shepherd - Biblical Reference: Psalm 23
Tune: William Howard Doane, 1875 ("To God Be the Glory")
Text: Copyright © 2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.
Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com*

SCRIPTURE

John 10:11-18

PRAYER

Ps. 23:3, 6; John 10:16

FotW

**Lord God, good shepherd,
by the leading of your Spirit,
help us to listen for your voice
and follow in your paths all the days of our lives;
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

SERMON

PRAYER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from a Brief Statement of Faith)

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**1 In shady, green pastures, so rich and so sweet,
God leads his dear children along;
where the water's cool flow bathes the weary one's feet,
God leads his dear children along.**

Refrain: **Some through the waters, some through the flood,
some through the fire, but all through the blood;
some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,
in the night season and all the day long.**

**2 Sometimes on the mount where the sun shines so bright,
God leads his dear children along;
sometimes in the valley, in darkest of night,
God leads his dear children along.**

Refrain:

**3 Though sorrows befall us and evils oppose,
God leads his dear children along;
through grace we can conquer, defeat all our foes,
God leads his dear children along.**

Refrain:

*Author: G. A. Young
Tune Name: GOD LEADS US
Composer: G. A. Young
Copyright: Public Domain
adapted from FotW and RG*

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*How does God's love abide in anyone who has the goods of the world
and sees a brother or sister in need, yet refuses to help? 1 John 3:17*

*Today and each day, with love for God and neighbor,
let us offer our lives to the Lord.*

PRAYER

(John 10:11-18)

GBoD

**Ever-present God who speaks in thunder and earthquakes,
and in the softest whisper:
we long to hear your voice over all the noise of the world this day.
In a world so divided and polarized,
we need to hear not only the voice of the Shepherd
but the cries of other sheep who are being marginalized, forgotten, and abandoned.
May the gifts we offer today and each day, be our response
to hearing the One who speaks in the language of love and compassion.
In his holy name, Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cathy's Weekly Note:

Every week during our worship hour "The Lord's Prayer" is part of our service. The beautiful and inspirational words in this prayer are brought deeper in our hearts when music is added. This amazing YouTube strengthens every word through the music and beautiful pictures. We all need a time of peace everyday, and this prayer will surely give you that peaceful time. I did send this YouTube early in September of 2020, but I think we need this prayer more today than ever. Peace be with you,

Cathy and Clark

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Ps. 23

FotW

**We are your people, O God—
the sheep of your pasture, the flock you have gathered.
Lead us beside still waters;
teach us the way of righteousness;
and feed us at your table;
through Jesus Christ, our good shepherd. Amen.**

CHARGE

1 John 3:23; John 10:11

FotW (alt)

*The charge we have received,
from Jesus Christ, the good shepherd,
is that we love one another.*

Amen.

BENEDICTION

RG

*Go forth into the world in peace,
knowing that God's goodness and mercy follow us.
Lift up the broken-hearted.
Stand with the oppressed.
And let us do everything out of the love of God,
which we know in Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

Amen.

POSTLUDE

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought
Rick-Hymnal 128-20Jul19-take2.mp4

128

Credits:

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<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>

Audio Files, - all are hymn tunes in the public domain.
most are performances by Rick Beede, recorded at CUMC, during 2020
others as noted: by Dean McIntyre, via the General Board of Discipleship
(aka Discipleship Ministries) of the United Methodist Church
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/piano-accompaniment-recordings>
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Reflecting on and Praying with the Lectionary
4th Sunday of Easter

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LECTIONARY FOR EASTER DAY

Acts 4:5–12

1 John 3:16–24

Psalm 23

John 10:11–18

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What does it mean to lay down our lives for one another (1 John 3:16)?

Think about people who have been “good shepherds” for you,

sharing the love and showing the way of Jesus Christ.

Who has helped to lead you in right paths or walked with you in dark valleys?

Who has given you comfort and calmed your fears?

Who has shown you hospitality and grace, making a place at the table for you,
even when you felt surrounded by enemies?

How have you done these things for others?

MORNING PRAYER:

Good shepherd, walk beside me
through the joy and trouble of this day,
and lead me in right paths
for your name’s sake. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER:

Good shepherd, remain with me
in the dark and stillness of this night,
and let me lie down in safety
to restore my soul. Amen.

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia**

25 April - 01 May 2021

More may be found here: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle>

Give thanks for:

- ✓ *the long history of Christianity in these lands*
- ✓ *Christians and Muslims who have witnessed to their faith during long years of repression and persecution*
- ✓ *positive developments these countries have undergone since the end of the Soviet era*
- ✓ *those who pursue peace and reconciliation in the face of old suspicions and animosities.*

Pray for:

- ✓ *greater respect for the human rights of all the peoples living in these countries*
- ✓ *just changes for those living in situations of poverty and discrimination*
- ✓ *the healing of past wrongs and distorted memories of what has occurred*
- ✓ *a prophetic witness of the churches in relation to new challenges*
- ✓ *the Georgian Orthodox Church, that it may rediscover a rich relationship with the family of churches worldwide.*

Prayers *Prayer at the Armenian Genocide Memorial*

© 2011 WCC

O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

We cry to you, with deep pain in our hearts and souls for our Armenian brothers and sisters, children, adults, and elders that were persecuted, robbed, exiled and killed during the Armenian genocide. They suffered because of their ethnic origin and because of their Christian faith, becoming victims of hate, intolerance, abuse and ethnic and religious purge. As Christians that follow your commandments to forgive our debtors and to love our neighbours, we pray to You to offer peaceful rest to the souls of the victims and to heal the wounds of their descendants. We are reminded of what Christ has said, "I am the Resurrection and I am the Life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die"¹

We pray for the recognition of this genocide by the descendants of those that initiated, planned and committed it and for the establishment of the historical truth regarding the genocide, for You taught us that the truth will make us free.² We pray for peace and reconciliation between the descendants of the murderers and victims for You are the God of forgiveness.

God, you created us to be stewards of life and community. Help the Armenian community to continue building their country in peace and contribute to the respect and confidence between peoples and nations. AMEN

¹ John 11:25

² cf John 8:32

Prayer from the Sunrise Office of the Armenian Church

*English transl. Archbishop Tiran Nersoya, New York, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, 1969.
Let us Pray to the Lord, ed. George Lemopolos, WCC, 1996, p.2.*

O Light!

Divine and one Holy Trinity,
we who are born of the earth glorify you always,
together with the heavenly hosts.
At the rising of the morning light,
shine forth upon our souls your intelligible light.