

# MISSION 4/1 EARTH:

*50 Great Days*

## Feed My Lambs

### Service Prayers for the Third Sunday of Easter

*During the Fifty Great Days of Mission 4/1 Earth*

April 14, 2013

#### READINGS:

*Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]*

*Psalms 30*

*Revelation 5:11-14*

*John 21:1-19*

#### INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Brothers and sisters.

If you lift your net and it is empty, Come here!

**We'll cast it out again into Christ's abundance.**

If you open your eyes but do not recognize the Holy One, Come here!

**We'll find the Risen Christ in all Creation.**

If your life is filled with mourning, Come here!

**Christ is leading a dance of joy.**

Come here, sisters and brothers!

**To give blessing and honor and glory to God!**

#### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Generous God,  
Giver of all that is good,  
Creator of all that is beautiful,  
you have blessed us with abundance,  
more than enough for everyone to share.

Out of this abundance you call us to care for each other:

**"Feed my lambs." "Tend my sheep." "Feed my sheep."**

Awaken us to the beauty and bounty of your Creation.

Encourage us to share generously with all those you love.

May we protect the beauty of all that is yours  
and nurture your bounty

for our children and our children's children. **Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,

Saul did not recognize the presence of the Holy One in the followers of the Risen Christ  
until your Light struck him sightless, helpless, and at last able to hear your voice!

In our day, too-narrow vision stops us from recognizing your presence in all of Creation.

**We fail to see that our lives are bound together  
with each other and with the earth.**

The Disciples could not succeed in fishing  
until the Risen Christ showed them how to cast their nets into your abundance.

In our day, we too-often treat this world with arrogant self-righteousness,  
as though it is our exclusive domain.

**We fail to remember  
that we are stewards, not owners of your Creation.**

Forgive us.

Teach us again that you have placed us in an eco-network of relationships.

Lead us to tend the gift of your Creation  
that we may feed the whole world community today  
and our children tomorrow. **Amen.**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

God's love for us is ever sure  
given in mercy  
Gratefully, thanks be to God.

### **OFFERING**

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.  
In the upside down world of the gospel,  
we measure our wealth not by what we have,  
but what we can give away.  
Let us give away generously, in this offering,  
To bless your church, your people, your creation.

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Thank you, God, for the gifts and ministries of your people.  
Grant that this offering given in thanksgiving  
for all the blessings you have given us  
will fill empty hearts with love  
and will proclaim your honor and glory in the name of Christ Jesus to all people. **Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

As you go out into the world,  
seek the presence of the Risen Christ in each other and in all of Creation.  
May God give you joyful courage to follow the command of Jesus:  
**"Feed my lambs." "Tend my sheep." "Feed my sheep."**

**Feed my Lambs, Service Prayers for the Third Sunday of Easter during the *Fifty Great Days of Mission 4/1 Earth***, was written by the Rev. Quentin Chin, member of Church on the Hill in Lenox, MA. Other Mission 4/1 Earth materials may be found at <http://www.ucc.org/news/mission-for-one-earth-website.html>



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