

First Congregational United Church of Christ
April 24, 2022



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2nd Sunday of Easter

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere Musician: Karina Roth

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter:

Liturgist: Linda Noble

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship

People who like sunsets: For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love from which our birth over and around us lies, God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

People who like sunrises: 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, God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

People who like star-gazing: For the joy of human love, sibling, cousin, parent, child. Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

People who like full moons: For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude. For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed, God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

Words of Lament:

Creator God, our planet Earth is in peril. Our addiction for self-gratification has blinded us from the ensuing destruction of the planet. We are filled with denial, anger, fear and despair. Hopeless. How can we save our lives, our planet? Filled with sorrow and shame, we grieve what we have lost and are losing. We can't imagine what the future holds. Forgive us for the role we've played in abusing the Earth. Turn our sorrow into awareness and action to live each day in harmony with all of Creation. Give us courage to trust in a life greater than death, to live beyond our despair, give us strength to set a new course.

Words of Blessing:

A Chinook Blessing

One: We call upon the Earth, our planet home, With its beautiful depths and soaring heights,

Many: Its vitality and abundance of life, And together we ask that it:

All: Teach us and show us the way.

One: We call upon all those who have lived on this earth, Our ancestors and our friends,

Many: Who dreamed the best for future generations, And upon whose lives our lives are build, And with thanksgiving we call upon them to,

All: Teach us and show us the way.

One: We call upon all that we hold most sacred,

Many: The presence and power of the Great Spirit of love and truth

Which flows through all the universe...To be with us to –

All: Teach us and show us the way.

Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.

Remember

By Joy Harjo

*Remember the sky that you were born under,
know each of the star's stories.*

Remember the moon, know who she is.

*Remember the sun's birth at dawn, that is the
strongest point of time. Remember the sundown
and the giving away to night.*

*Remember your birth, how your mother struggled
to give your form and breath. You are evidence of
her life, and her mother's.*

Remember your father. He is your life, also.

*Remember the earth whose skin you are:
red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth,
brown earth, we are earth.*

*Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their
tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them,
listen to them. They are alive poems.*

*Remember the wind. Remember her voice. She knows the
origin of this universe.*

*Remember you are all people and all people
are you.*

*Remember you are this universe and this
universe is you.*

Remember all is in motion, it growing, is you.

Remember language comes from this.

Remember the dance language is, that life is.

Remember.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture Psalm 19 (the Message)

19¹⁻² God's glory is on tour in the skies, God-craft on exhibit across the horizon.
Madame Day holds classes every morning, Professor Night lectures each evening.

3-4 Their words aren't heard, their voices aren't recorded, But their silence fills the earth: unspoken truth is spoken everywhere.

4-5 God makes a huge dome for the sun—a superdome!
The morning sun's a new husband leaping from his honeymoon bed,
The day breaking sun an athlete racing to the tape.

6 That's how God's Word vaults across the skies from sunrise to sunset,
Melting ice, scorching deserts, warming hearts to faith.

7-9 The revelation of GOD is whole and pulls our lives together.
The signposts of GOD are clear and point out the right road.
The life-maps of GOD are right, showing the way to joy.
The directions of GOD are plain and easy on the eyes.
GOD's reputation is twenty-four-carat gold, with a lifetime guarantee.
The decisions of GOD are accurate down to the nth degree.

10 God's Word is better than a diamond, better than a diamond set between emeralds. You'll like it better than strawberries in spring, better than red, ripe strawberries.

11-14 There's more: God's Word warns us of danger and directs us to hidden treasure. Otherwise how will we find our way? Or know when we play the fool?
Clean the slate, God, so we can start the day fresh!
Keep me from stupid sins, from thinking I can take over your work;
Then I can start this day sun-washed, scrubbed clean of the grime of sin.
These are the words in my mouth; these are what I chew on and pray.
Accept them when I place them on the morning altar,
O God, my Altar-Rock, God, Priest-of-My-Altar.

Children's Message "The Other Way to Listen" by Byrd Baylor and Peter Parnall

1st Reflection by Bruce Tyler

Collect:

**Pray for the wilderness, vanishing fast.
Pray for the rainforest, open and vast.
Pray for the waterfalls, pray for the trees,
Pray for the planet brought down by degrees.**

**Work for the justice created things need.
Work for the health of each plant and its seed.
Work for the creatures abuse has betrayed.
Work for the garden God's wisdom once made.**

2nd Reflection by Suzanne Weber

Collect:

**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.**

**Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
Water that blesses, and air that is sweet.
Health in God's Garden, hope in Christ's children,
Regeneration that peace will complete.**

3rd Reflection by Gwen Mattice

Collect:

**O mighty God, when I survey in wonder
The world that formed when once the word you said,
The strands of life all woven close together,
The whole creation at your table fed.
Then sings my soul, in songs of praise to you, how great Thou art, how
great Thou art!**

Musical Reflections

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Creator Father, Mother Earth, holy is your creation. Your creation flourish, your love be throughout all, in this world as it is in heaven. Supply all their daily needs. Forgive us our harming of your creation, as we work to heal what we have harmed. Lead us from this path of destruction, and deliver the world from greed, selfishness, and fear. For yours is the creation, the love, and the peace, now and throughout all eternity. Amen.

Our Time of Giving & Stewardship

Doxology

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Sending Music

Benediction

Five Vows by Joanna Macy

I vow to myself and to each of you

- To commit myself daily to the healing of our world and the welfare of all beings
- To live on Earth more lightly and less violently in the food, products, and energy I consume.
- To Draw strength and guidance from the living Earth, the ancestors, the future beings, and our siblings of all species
- To support you in your work for the world, and to ask for help when I need it
- To pursue a daily spiritual practice that clarifies my mind, strengthens my heart, and supports me in observing these vows.

I vow these things to myself– and to each of you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST: Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Larry (Jenny Delfs' father), Kris Baxter, Mike Carlson, John Mianowski, People of Ukraine,
Shut-ins and Care Center: Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes.

MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

The First Congregational UCC Budget adopted in January 2022 shows a need for a yearly income of \$151,756.

After 16 weeks the Budget Donations and Income should be \$46,694.15

The Actual Donations so far this year have been \$63,104.30

Thank You for all your support.

Kevin R LeVoir, Treasurer

HELP WANTED FOR WORK DAY AT THE PARSONAGE

Help needed with projects at the Parsonage. Projects include painting, removing carpet, and miscellaneous chores.

Date- May 14th

Time- 1:30 pm

IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN BOTTGER AT jbottger@boreal.org or 218-370-1554 OR SEE ME AT THE CHURCH.

Hope you can help. This is a great fellowship time and maybe we can get donuts! Building and Grounds Committee

THIS WEEK:

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

7:00 AM - AA (FS)

8:00 AM Harbor Watch

4:30 PM Earth Day Fair at Cook County Community Center

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

9:00 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL Open for children K-6th grade.

Join us on [Zoom](#).

10:00 AM – Hymn Sing outside

10:30 AM – **IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM Earth Day Sunday**, we continue to celebrate Earth Day and lift up the healing, restoration, and justice that we need to be about so that there may be resurrection for our planet and for humans You can join us on [Zoom](#).

Pastor Enno is on vacation from APRIL 25th – MAY 6th

MONDAY, April 25

7:00 AM - AA (FS)

3:00PM - 5:00PM - Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL)

7:00 PM Zen Meditation (LL)

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

3:00 PM – Ministerial Lectionary Study

MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE!!

WEDNESDAY, April 27

7:00AM AA (FS)

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

10:00 AM – Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall

12:00PM Women's AA (FS)

FRIDAY, April 29

7:00 AM AA (FS)

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch

SUNDAY, May 1

9:00 AM – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 AM – OUTSIDE HYMN SING

10:30 AM – ***IN-PERSON*** AND ON ZOOM Ben Steckelberg will be subbing in for Pastor Enno while he is on vacation. You can join us on [Zoom](#).

OUR CHURCH OFFICE CONTINUES TO BE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE: Pastor Enno and Office Manager, Carol Morgen, are in the building at unscheduled times. For pastoral emergencies, please contact our new Designated Pastor, Rev. Enno Limvere at (605) 460-0330.

FOLLOW US ON: Facebook – First Congregational UCC Grand Marais.

Instagram - Grandmaraisucc

Website - grandmaraisucc.org

FOOD SHELF: The Food Shelf is distributing food each Monday, from 3:00-5:00 pm, also on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 4:30-6:30 pm, downstairs in our church building. You can support their work by sending your checks to Food Shelf, P.O. Box 51, Grand Marais, MN 55604.

GIVING DURING THIS TIME OF SUSPENDED SERVICES AND PROGRAMS: It is tremendously heartening, for both your church staff and church lay leaders, to see such generous giving continuing during this time. Your on-going support of our ministries are especially important now. We encourage each of you to find ways to continue to support our ministries. Please consider continuing to give to our church by:

1. Download the VANCO Mobile app on your smartphone, to give with your credit card online. Enter our church name or 55604 zip code, then choose our church account. This is a program of VANCO, with whom we already have a contract for such transactions.
2. Contact Kevin LeVoir, our Treasurer, about automatic deposit from your personal bank account, at krlevoir@aol.com.
3. Send a check in the US mail! P.O. Box 95, Grand Marais, MN 55604.

You can also join the live worship service via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 865 0120 9458 Passcode: 770706

Purpose and Mission

Peace Church, we invite all who seek the reign of God to join us in reaching out in healing ministry, working for justice, witnessing for peace and striving to overcome all forms of oppression. We recognize two sacraments: Baptism and Communion.