

First Congregational United Church of Christ

September 11, 2022



Photo by Fatame Alaie

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Creation

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere      Musician: Francie Beaster

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Bruce Tyler      Liturgist: Nancy Starr

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

### **Words to Enter Worship\***

*People who love lakes:* **How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands! The heavens declare your glory; the arch of sky displays your handiwork.**

*People who love forests:* **In your love you have given us the power to behold the beauty of your world robed in all its splendor. The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills, the rivers and lakes all disclose your presence.**

*People who love prairies:* **The roaring breakers of the seas tell of your awesome might; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air speak of your wondrous will.**

*People who love mountains:* **In your goodness you have made us able to hear the music of the world. You are in our midst. A divine voice sings through all creation.**

### **Words of Lament\***

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

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

Leader: O God, your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals,

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

Leader O God, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants,

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

Leader O God, your creatures are slowly dying and your people are suffering,

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

Leader God our maker, so move us by the wonder of creation,

All: **That we may 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.**

### **Words of Blessing (Based on Psalm 51)**

**One:** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**Many:** O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.

**All:** For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

**One:** The sacrifice acceptable to God is a humble spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God you will not despise.

**Many:** Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then you will delight in humble hearts.

**All:** May our praise and praise delight you, O God, and may our offerings of justice and compassion be a light that reflects your light.

### **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.

*The Tiny Little Community by Yazzy Nixon*

*The river flows courses its way through time,  
Leaving behind little dry spots and small puddles.*

*Have you ever noticed?*

*The continuing trials of life flowing through the rock bound substance.*

*Fish constructing more fish,*

*Tiny tadpoles swiggling behind the weeds.*

*Dragonflies hopping across the waters,*

*Making ripples forever bound.*

*And oh, how those ripples just keep on going.*

*Getting bigger and bigger.*

*Water bugs skittering from one end to the other.*

*The shores silently clashing with the waves.*

*The modest community I watch from the bridge everyday,*

*Wondering,*

*How alike we are in our ways.*

## **Passing of the Peace**

### **Scripture Readings**

**Liturgist Scriptures** Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 (Common English Bible)

<sup>11</sup> At that time, this people and Jerusalem will be told:

A blistering wind from the bare heights;  
it rages in the desert toward my people,  
not merely to winnow or cleanse.

<sup>12</sup> This wind is too devastating for that.

Now I, even I, will pronounce my sentence against them.

<sup>22</sup> My people are foolish They don't even know me!

They are thoughtless children without understanding;  
they are skilled at doing wrong, inept at doing right.

<sup>23</sup> I looked at the earth, and it was without shape or form; at the heavens, and there was no light.

<sup>24</sup> I looked at the mountains and they were quaking; all the hills were rocking back and forth.

<sup>25</sup> I looked and there was no one left, every bird in the sky had taken flight.

<sup>26</sup> I looked and the fertile land was a desert; all its towns were in ruins before the LORD,  
before his fury.

<sup>27</sup> The LORD proclaims:

The whole earth will become a desolation, but I will not destroy it completely.

<sup>28</sup> Therefore, the earth will grieve and the heavens grow dark because I have declared my plan and will neither change my mind nor cancel the plan.

1 Timothy 1:12-17 (The Message)

<sup>12-14</sup> I'm so grateful to Christ Jesus for making me adequate to do this work. He went out on a limb, you know, in trusting me with this ministry. The only credentials I brought to it were violence and witch hunts and arrogance. But I was treated mercifully because I didn't know what I was doing—didn't know Who I was doing it against! Grace mixed with faith and love poured over me and into me. And all because of Jesus.

<sup>15-19</sup> Here's a word you can take to heart and depend on: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. I'm proof—Public Sinner Number One—of someone who could never have

made it apart from sheer mercy. And now he shows me off—evidence of his endless patience—to those who are right on the edge of trusting him forever. Deep honor and bright glory to the King of All Time—One God, Immortal, Invisible, ever and always. Oh, yes!

### **Sermon Scripture** Luke 15:1-10

**15** Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> ‘Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.” <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> ‘Or what woman having ten silver coins,<sup>[a]</sup> if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, “Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.” <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.’

**Children’s Message**      What is lost can be found..

**Message**              The Community of Life

### **Musical Reflections**

#### **Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Creator God, whose presence permeates the universe and heavens, your name is shrouded in holiness. May your community come, your design be done, on this planet as it is in heaven. Give all life this day enough to sustain us. Forgive us our foolishness, as we forgive those who were foolish. Lead us not into global obliteration, but deliver us from the ways that harm your planet and all life. For yours is the community, the love, and the grandeur forever. Amen.**

#### **Our Time of Giving – Prayer of the Month**

##### **Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God for all that love has done;*

*Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

#### **News of God at Work in our Congregation and Community**

##### **Benediction**

##### **Sending Music**