

First Congregational United Church of Christ

April 23, 2023

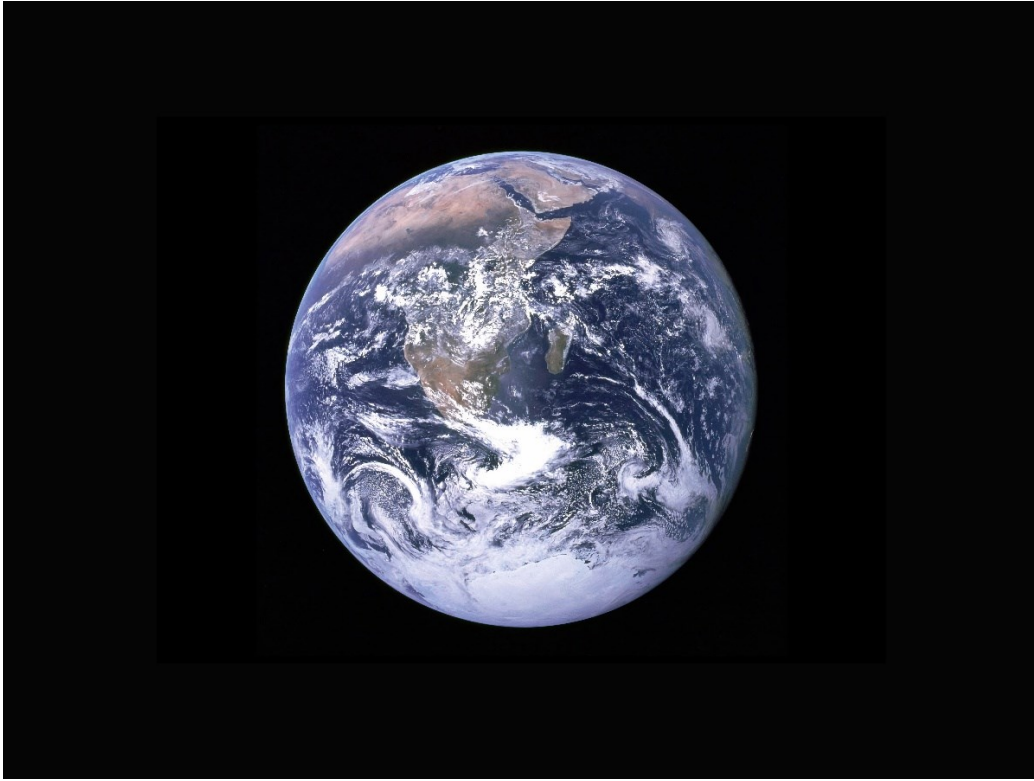


Photo by NASA

3rd 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: Linda Noble

Liturgist: Jenny Delfs

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship

People who love the water: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while the Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good.

People who love the earth: Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation; plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with seed in it." And it was so; and God saw that it was good.

People who love the sky: Then God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky. Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so, and God saw that it was good.

People who love the seasons: Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, all the wild animals, and over everything that creeps upon the earth." And it was so, God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Opening Hymn #564 We Are Not Our Own

1. We are not our own. Earth forms us, human leaves on nature's vine,
Fruit of many generations, seeds of life divine.
2. We are not own alone, Earth names us: past and present, peoples near and far,
Family and friends and strangers, show us who we are.
3. Through a human life God finds us; dying, living, love is fully known,
And in bread and wine reminds us, we are not our own.
4. Therefore let us make thanksgiving, and with justice, willing and aware,
Give to earth and all things living, liturgies of care
5. And if love's encounters lead us, on a way uncertain and unknown,
All the saints with prayer surround us: we are not alone.
6. Let us be a house of welcome, living stone upholding living stone,
Gladly showing all our neighbors, we are not our own!

Words of Lament

Merciful God, we lament for what cannot be stopped....

We lament for what cannot be changed...

We lament for what cannot be undone.... We lament for what cannot be...

Creating and Creating God of Justice, Compassion, and Resurrection, help us to stop, change, undo, and let it be. Amen

Time of Silence

Offering of Gifts and Blessing of the Earth

Litany Living in Harmony

May we use the world's resources we need with love, humility, and thoughtfulness, without guilt, without fear, without waste.

All: **May we live in harmony with the earth**

May we live together with animals with which we share this planet, being careful not to harm them or their habitats.

All: **May we live in harmony with the earth**

May we respect the life in our lakes, rivers and oceans, using them with care and being mindful in our efforts not to pollute them.

All: **May we live in harmony with the earth**

May we learn to live within our means, by reducing our waste and continuing to reuse and recycle all that we can.

All: **May we live in harmony with the earth**

May we plan to leave the world in a state that all future generations will be able to enjoy, ensuring that it is filled with resources, life, and kept healthy and clean.

All: **May we live in harmony with the earth**

Lord, Creator of all living things, Help guide our daily actions and thoughts to become better stewards of the earth. Guide us to act responsibly, care for the earth you gave us, and make wise choices in our everyday living. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Adapted from Words for the Journey for Teens by Lisa Freemantle, Les Miller & Melinda Rapallo-Ferrara)

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.

An Earth Song by Langston Hughes

It's an earth song, —
And I've been waiting long for an earth song.
It's a spring song, —
And I've been waiting long for a spring song.
 Strong as the shoots of a new plant
 Strong as the bursting of new buds
 Strong as the coming of the first child from its mother's womb.
It's an earth song,
A body song,
A spring song,
I have been waiting long for this spring song.

Passing of the Peace

Hymn #245 The Day of Resurrection

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture Isaiah 11:1-4a, 5-9 (Common English Bible)

A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse; a branch will sprout from his roots.

² The LORD's spirit will rest upon them, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of planning and strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD.

³ They will delight in fearing the LORD, and won't judge by appearances, nor decide by hearsay.

⁴ They will judge the needy with righteousness, and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land.

⁵ Righteousness will be the belt around their hips, and faithfulness the belt around their waist.

⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion will feed together, and a little child will lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear will graze. Their young will lie down together, and a lion will eat straw like an ox.

⁸ A nursing child will play over the snake's hole; toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den.

⁹ They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain. The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the LORD, just as the water covers the sea.

2nd Scripture – Luke 24:13-35 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Version)

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Mo-

ses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Children's Message

Creation is in your hand...

Choir Anthem

Blue Boat Home

Message

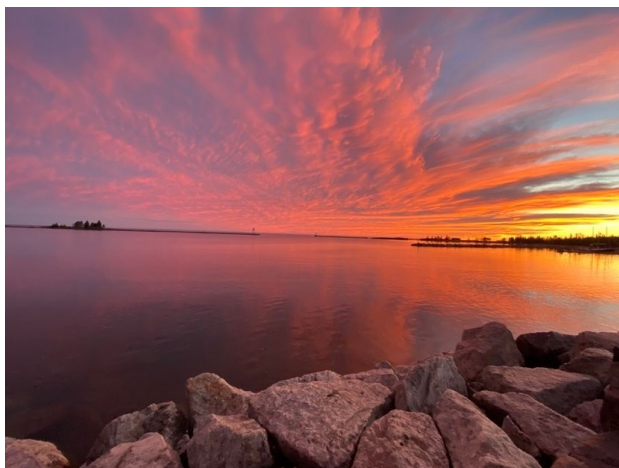
Walking with Christ and the World

Musical Reflections

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

Our Creator, in whose image we are created, sacred is your name. Let creation come, let the re-creation be done, in this world as in heaven. Give all life its daily sustenance. Forgive us our dominion-domination harmful ways, as we forgive those who harm us. Lead us not on this path of global climate destruction, but deliver the fish, the birds, the animals, and plants from our destructive ways. For yours is the earth, the life, and the sacred, now and into eternity. Amen.

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community



Our Time of Giving

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, alleluia
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Closing Hymn #556 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

Benediction

Sending Music

The Cook County Local Energy Project (CCLEP) is a non-profit organization located in Grand Marais, Minnesota. We coordinate and catalyze collaborative projects with partner organizations in order to promote the increased use of renewable energy and the application of energy efficient practices and technologies in Cook County, MN. We facilitate an equitable and sustainable transition toward locally-controlled, resilient, low-carbon energy production in Cook County. We support and advocate for the sovereignty of Indigenous nations, who share this land we call home.

<https://www.cookcountylocalenergy.org/>

Creation Justice Ministries (formerly the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program) represents the creation care and environmental justice policies of major Christian denominations throughout the United States. We work in cooperation with 38 national faith bodies including Protestant denominations and Orthodox communions as well as regional faith groups, and congregants to protect and restore God's Creation.

Mission Statement:

Creation Justice Ministries educates, equips and mobilizes Christian individuals, congregations, denominations, and communions to protect, restore and rightly share God's creation.

Creation Justice Defined:

Doing "creation justice" means protecting, restoring, and rightly sharing God's creation. We seek justice for *all* of God's creation, including the human beings who live in it. Our approach to creation justice is informed by respect and love for our Creator. We draw on the rich heritage of Christian scriptures and traditions, which call us not only to till and keep the Earth, but also to act for racial, economic, and environmental justice.

[Read more about the concept of Creation justice.](#)

Water Legacy of Minnesota: Our Vision, Mission & Values

Our Vision: Protecting Minnesota's waters and the communities that rely on them.

Our Mission: We work with allies and partners to prevent the greatest threats to Minnesota's waters and communities, including sulfide mining and regulatory capture by industry.

We value: human health, environmental health, and justice; respect for tribal rights; rulings guided by

science and law, not politics; and a sustainable world seven generations into the future. Read [More](#)

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light

MNIPL works in partnership with faith and spiritual communities to build transformative *power* and bring the *lights* of people's unique gifts to addressing the climate crisis.

We grow the climate movement in Minnesota by empowering individuals and communities across the state to take action that is authentic, effective, and energizing in their context. Join us in building a powerful social movement for climate and environmental justice. Read [More](#)

Rooted and Rising

Mission: To demonstrate good stewardship of our land by protecting water quality, providing natural habitat, and increasing climate resiliency.

Master plan components (work in progress) Read [MORE](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST: Meredith Eliot (Church-
vison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette An-
holm, Mike Carlson, Gwen Dornfeld, Sally
Dunn, Family of Bob Carter, Family of Levi
tell, Family of Lawrence Scully, All Victims of
Violence, Countries of Ukraine, Turkey and
ia, and Planet Earth

You are an amazing
person! God's truth...

Da-

Ax-
Gun
Syr-

Shut-ins and Care Center: Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes, Nancy Cihlar,
and Tom Hedstrom

MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS:

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2023 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28
January 2023, showing a need for a yearly income of \$164,110.00. After sixteen weeks,
the Budget Donations and Income should be \$49,080.06. The Actual Donations, so far
this year, have been \$62,128.59.

Thank you for your Support!

Kevin LeVoir, Treasurer

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

10:00 AM - Tai Chi

12:00 PM - Women's AA

12:00 PM - Eco-Preacher Cohort

2:00-6:00 PM - Piano Lessons

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

7:00 AM - AA (FS)

8:00 AM - Harbor Watch

12:00 PM - Set Up for Earth Day Fair at Cook County Community Center

2:00-6:00 PM - Piano Lessons

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 Happy Earth Day

9:30AM-2:30 PM - Piano Lessons

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM - Earth Day Fair at CC Community Center

We are looking for a delegate to the Minnesota United Church of Christ Conference Meeting to join Pastor Enno and Bruce Tyler to represent our church at its Annual Meeting. See the Mailchimp for more details.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

9:00 AM -Sunday School Zoom

9:30 AM – Choir Practice

10:30 AM -Worship Service - *Inside* AND

ON ZOOM 3rd Sunday of East-

er, this Sunday is right after Earth Day. In this service, we will uplift and renew our relationship with God's world and all of nature. May we

repent the ways in which we harmed the world and build a new and lasting covenant with Earth and all that lives in it.

MONDAY, APRIL 24

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

7:00 PM - ALANON

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

All Day - Sheriff's Chaplain Training

2:00-6:00 PM - Piano Lessons

7:00 PM - Zen Meditation (LL)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

10:00 AM - Ministerial

Lectionary Study

2:00-6:00 PM -Piano Lessons

THURSDAY, APRIL 27



OPEN AND AFFIRMING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10:00 AM - Tai Chi
12:00 PM- Women's AA
2:00-6:00 PM - Piano Lessons
4:00 PM - Pastor Relations Committee
5:00 PM - Library Board of Trustees
7:00 PM - Lament for the Earth

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

7:00 AM - AA (FS)
8:00 AM - Harbor Watch
2:00 - 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons
3:30 PM - Pizza and Social Justice Overnight

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

9:30 AM - 2:30 PM -Piano Lessons

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

9:00 AM -Sunday School Zoom

9:30 AM – Choir Practice

10:30 AM Worship Service - Inside AND ON ZOOM 4th Sunday of Easter, it is a 5th Sunday so we will take a break from preaching and open up the time for questions and dialogue. Where you can ask about a previous sermon, a question of the Bible, or something that is happening in the world?