



First Congregational
United Church of Christ
April 21 2024

Earth Day Sunday/4th Sunday of Easter

Partners in Ministry: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: **Rev. Enno K. Limvere**

Musician: **Chandler Litterst** Choir Director: **Pastor Enno**

Peace Candle Lighter: **Byron Aldrich** Liturgist: **Jenny Delfs**

Greeter: **Byron Aldrich** Usher: **May B. Ewe** Video Camera Operator: **Stephen Aldrich**

Coffee-Hour Host: **Kileen Limvere** Computer Operator: **Nina McCune**

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300 West 2nd Street, Grand Marais, MN 55604

Gathering Music
Words of Welcome
Prelude

Opening Hymn #31 All Things Bright and Beautiful
Words of Lament*

Scripture tells us that “creation waits with eager longing for the children of God to be revealed.”

Creation is waiting for us.

To open our eyes to the devastation in our world.

Creation is waiting for us.

To put the needs of the most vulnerable above the greed of the powerful.

Creation is waiting for us.

To move from doing what is easy to doing what is necessary and right.

Creation is waiting for us.

To prioritize the needs of community over the convenience of self.

Creation is waiting for us.

To remove the pollution from our seas, land, air, bodies and hearts.

Creation is waiting for us.

In all these things and more, creation waits for us to assume our roles as its servants and protectors.

With God’s help, we will answer creation’s call. Amen.

Time of Silence

Blessing of the Earth*

Prayers of Gratitude

In the Word, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 reminds us to “rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” We know there is much to be thankful for, even in our plastic crisis. We acknowledge that plastic is a useful resource when used appropriately, as in many life-saving medical applications. We can also give thanks for the many people leading the way in tackling the misuse of plastic and uniting to take action to be good stewards of your Earth.

Thank you, God, for organizations that fight tirelessly for the betterment of us all.

Organizations that honor Indigenous voices and wisdom as they do the crucial work of making connections between these dangerous impacts on the human, plant and animal health and the fossil-fuel driven production of plastics in the region.

Thank you, God, for the thousands of people worldwide who take part in plastic-free efforts, reducing their own reliance on single-use plastic and encouraging others to understand the damage plastics are doing to creation and our global neighbors.

Thank you, God, for the new global plastics treaty negotiations that are taking place during 2023 and 2024 and the opportunity to tackle our plastic crisis as a global community.

Thank you, God, for people of faith for whom love of creation and care for God’s world is a core piece of their identity and their faith in the Lord, and who are using their creative gifts to reduce reliance on plastics and encourage others to bravely go against the flow of society standards.

Thank you, God for Cook County Local Energy Project, First & Second, Oddz & Endz, recycling, Grand Marais Climate Action Plan, Rooted and Rising...

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 peacemakers 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

Scripture Reading – Psalm 98 (The Inclusive Bible)

0 sing to the Lord a new song,
 who has worked wonders,
Whose right hand and holy arm
 has brought deliverance!
2 The Lord has made salvation known
 and shown divine justice to the nations,
3 and has remembered in truth and love
 the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
 the salvation of our God.
4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
 break forth into joyous songs of praise.
5 Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
 with the lyre and the sound of melody.
6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
 make a joyful noise before the LORD, Ruler of All.
7 Let the sea roar, and all within it thunder;
 the world and all its peoples.
8 Let the rivers clap their hands;
 let the hills ring out their joy
9 before LORD, who comes to judge the earth,
 and its people with equity.



Children's Message

Listen to the World

Choir Heal the World

Message O Sing a New Song

Musical Reflections

Communion Hymn #341 Great Spirit God (versus 1, 2, & 4)

Communion

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

Our Father, Mother God, you are in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Our Time of Giving

We acknowledge the many ways in which those who support our ministry. Many give the weekly, monthly, or yearly pledges and offerings. Many give of their time and talent in our church and throughout our community. We are grateful for all. Thank you.

Doxology NCH #785

**We give you but your own,
What-e'er the gift may be,
All that we have is yours a-lone,
We give it grateful-ly.**



Closing Hymn #27 From All That Dwells below the Skies

Benediction

Sending Music

* Liturgy from Creation Justice Resources
