

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Earth Sunday: “God’s Wonderful World”

Prelude *Gaelic Morning (Morning Has Broken)* arr. Dan Forrest
Velda Graham Bell, piano

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Song *Water is Life (Mni Wičoni)* Sara Thomsen
Sara Thomsen, vocals and guitar
“Mni Wičoni” means “water is life” in Lakota/Dakota

Call to Worship Wendy and Peter Williamson

One: We are one.
All: Thank you, God, for making us all one.
One: We are the song and drum.
All: Thank you, God, for giving us song and reasons to sing.
One: We are the river, we are the water.
All: Thank you, God, for giving us the water of life.
One: We are the earth and sky.
All: Thank you, God, for creating earth and sky to sustain us.
One: We are the ancient ones.
All: Thank you, God, for giving us our elders and their wisdom.
One: We are the new day.
All: Thank you, God, for making all our days new in you.
One: We are one.
All: We gather as one to worship God.

Hymn *All Creatures of Our God and King* UM Hymnal #62, v. 1-4
led by Adair Ballavance, Carol Donahue, Nancy Eaton, and Michael Goodlet

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| 1. All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice
and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with
silver gleam!
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! | 3. O sister water, flowing clear, make music for thy
Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother fire who lights the night, providing warmth,
enhancing sight,
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! |
| 2. O brother wind, air, clouds and rain, by which all
creatures ye sustain,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of
evening, find a voice!
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! | 4. Dear mother earth, who day by day unfoldest
blessings on our way,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, let them God’s
glory also show!
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! |

Morning Prayer

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Unison Prayer: **God of Active Hope, we belong to this world. We are here to engage and play our part. Give us a readiness to discover the size and strength of our hearts, quickness of mind, steadiness of purpose, liveliness of curiosity and love for all life. Give us the grace to take risks for the sake of something greater than our separate, individual lives. Give us the grace to act on behalf of the Earth itself. Help us practice knowing and remembering that we are part of and sustained by the web of life, which you created.** *(Written with reference to Active Hope by Macy and Johnstone)*

Concerns and Celebrations

Jesus' Prayer - Solstice Prayer by Chuck Dayton

Our Creator, throughout the heavens, hallowed be thy flame. In a trillion suns, thy will be done. In the tiniest cell, thy kingdom comes. Give us each day – a bird in flight, a flower's perfume, a bright star's light. And lead us not on the path of greed, but teach us to tread lightly, taking only what we need. For ours is the journey from ignorance to understanding, from separateness to oneness. Together with you, the universe, the energy and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Children's Message

Jojo Coffin- Langdon

Scripture Reading

Laura and Bob Krumwiede

Selections from Genesis 1

- Reader One: In the beginning, God created the universe. God said, "Let there be light!" So there was light.
- Reader Two: God saw that the light was beautiful.
- Reader One: Then God said, "Let there be a canopy between bodies of water separating bodies of water from bodies of water. Then God said, "Let the water beneath the sky come together into one area and let dry ground appear!"
- Reader Two: And God saw how good it was.
- Reader One: Then God said, "Let vegetation sprout all over the earth, including seed-bearing plants and fruit trees, each kind containing its own seed!"
- Reader Two: And God saw that it was good.
- Reader One: Then God said, "Let there be lights across the sky to distinguish day from night; to act as signs for seasons, days, and years; to serve as lights in the sky; and to shine on the earth!"
- Reader Two: And God saw how good it was.
- Reader One: Then God said, "Let the oceans swarm with living creatures and let flying creatures soar above the earth throughout the sky!"
- Reader Two: And God saw how good it was.
- Reader One: Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth each kind of living creature, each kind of livestock and crawling thing, and each kind of earth's animals!"
- Reader Two: And God saw how good it was.
- Reader One: Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our own image, to be like us."
- Reader Two: Now God saw all that he had made and, indeed, it was very good!

Anthem

What a Wonderful World

arr. Sandra Eithun

Strikepoint

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon



Holy Communion

Pastors Jeanine Alexander and Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

Hymn *Hymn of Promise*

UM Hymnal #707
led by Emma Rustan

1. *In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

2. *There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.*

*From the past will come the future;
what it holds a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

3. *In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

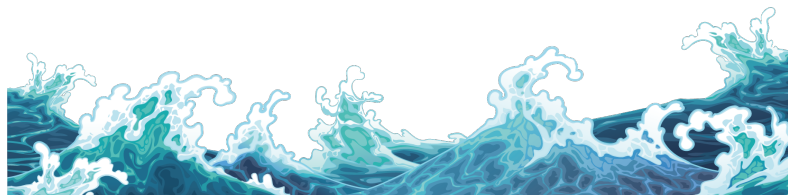
Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander and Geoff Bell

Postlude *All Creatures of Our God and King*
Velda Graham Bell, organ

arr. David Schack

Video from our Sustainability Team



Thank you to local musician Sara Thomsen for sharing her song, "Water is Life" with us for our Earth Day service, a service that helps us remember our duty to care for nature, plants, and the land that God has created. Sara was inspired to write "Water is Life" by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and all who joined together at Standing Rock to protect the Missouri River. It continues as a call to all of us to stand courageously to protect the waters everywhere.

Roadside Cleanup is Saturday, May 15. This is a chance for you to put your commitment to the earth into action! Meet at the corner of Midway and Maple Grove Roads at noon. For more information, contact Bill Alexander at bill@strikepoint.com.

Join us for a Parking Lot Social after worship today. There will be doughnuts, coffee, and visiting in the church parking lot from **11:15am until 12:30pm**. In case of bad weather, we will gather next Sunday, May 2. Please plan to wear masks in the parking lot to ensure everyone is safe. It will be GREAT to get together in person! Compostable kitchen bags will be available for sale, as well as reusable straws and canvas bags decorated by our children.

Beginning next Sunday, May 2, up to 50 people may worship in person in our Sanctuary. The service will not be live, but the pre-recorded video will be projected on the wall. **You must sign up in advance!** Call the church office at 218-727-5021 before noon on Friday or [sign up online](#).

Next Sunday is Confirmation Sunday, when we will welcome ten new members into our congregation.

Trees for Kids. Katie Strand, daughter of Kay and Rollie Strand, created an educational video for the non-profit company Neighborhood Forest*. They give kids their very own FREE TREE through schools, libraries and youth groups. This year, thanks to some rockstar librarians, Neighborhood Forest went viral! They went from giving an average of 5000 trees (2010-2020), to 18,500! Projections for 2022 are 40,000 or more FREE TREES for kids! Donations can be made via GoFundMe and trees can be ordered (for kids) for 2022 at the Neighborhood Forest website NeighborhoodForest.org. Please thoughtfully consider making a contribution to this very worthy endeavor and share it with your community and network. It's good for the child and good for the planet!
<http://gofundme.com/f/neighborhood-forest>

Thank you to Bill Alexander and Alex Flinner for recording, compiling, editing and distributing the videos to create our online worship service.

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