First United Methodist Church

Sunday, April 23, 2023 Caring for Creation Sunday

Please be aware that our services are livestreamed, and any adults and/or children participating in musical groups, children's messages and liturgist roles will appear on camera.



Prelude Blue Boat Home Peter Mayer

Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Welcoming New Members

Congregational response: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Thanking Ashley

Call to Worship Geoff Bell

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights above!

All: Praise God, all angels! Praise God, all heavenly hosts!

One: Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars.

All: Praise God, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

One: Let them praise the name of the Lord; for at God's command, they were created, and God established them for ever and ever.

All: Praise God from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do God's bidding.

One: Praise God, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds.

All: Let all creation praise the name of the Lord!

* Hymn Come, Now is the Time to Worship

attachment

Morning Prayer

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

All: Creator God, who set the stars in their places and directs the course of the planets; who robed this earth with a thin garment of air, making it a haven of beauty and life; who breathed into each of us the breath of life; we thank you for the gifts that surround us in your beautiful Creation. Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in all of your gifts that we receive them with gratitude, care for them with love, and generously share them with all your creatures, to the honor and glory of your holy name. Amen.

Prayers of Joy and Concern

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 in the journey from ignorance to understanding, from separateness to oneness. Together with you, the universe, the energy, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Anthem For the Fruit of All Creation

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director Rebecca Peterson, cello; Jenna Mattson, violin

Children's Message

Jojo Coffin-Langdon, Director of Family Ministries

Children may leave for Sunday School after the Children's Message.

Scripture Reading Geoff Bell

Genesis 2:4b-9 and 15

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up – for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth and there was no one to till the ground – then God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. And God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground, the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

Anthem Earth and All Stars

Herbert Brokering

Brandon Veale, Derek Bromme, Tom Wiig, Riley Hinnenkamp, vocal quartet Mary Anne Korsch, piano

Sermon To Till and Keep the Earth

Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

* Hymn Morning Has Broken

UM Hymnal #145

Offering Our Gifts

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

<u>Unison Prayer of Dedication:</u> All good gifts come from you, dear God, and you reveal glimpses of your grace through them. Thank you for inviting us to be partners with you in caring for your creation. We offer these gifts now, knowing that they come first from you, then from other members of your family of creation, then from us. Bless these symbols of awareness that we depend upon you and your creation for all that we call "ours." In your name, Amen!

* Hymn I Sing the Almighty Power of God

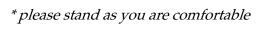
UM Hymnal #152

Benediction Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude Intrada on Two Hymn Tunes

G.F. Handel, arr. Alice Jordan

Velda Graham Bell, organ





Announcements

Please fill out the Connect Cards each week. They are replacing the attendance pads formerly found in the pews. Keeping attendance and making sure the church has your current contact information is an important part of church records. On the back of the card, is a list of ministry opportunities, places where your help can make a difference! These will change often, so check them each week and please sign up where you can.

Guests: Welcome to First United Methodist Church. We are so glad you are worshipping with us today! Please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Narthex; we have a packet and small gift for first-time visitors.

Today we welcome new members: Ashley Etter, Clela and Mike Henson, Helen Kampa, Greg Leiviska, and Julie and Jeff Rogers. Please greet these new members of our First Family!

Each spring we like to celebrate the achievements of our graduates. If you or a family member are graduating (high school and beyond), please be sure that Pastor Cynthia or the church office has your name, school and degree information.

The new photo directories are here! Stop at the table in the Atrium; there are reserved copies for everyone who had a photo taken or submitted a photo. Other copies are available while supplies last.

Stop by the Sustainability table in the Narthex for information on what our church is doing to care for creation and how you can join in.

Join us for Faith Forum Sunday mornings 9:00-9:45 in the Fireside Lounge. On April 30, Alex Flinner will talk about technology and sustainability. On May 7, Nik Rushdi Hassan will talk about the experiences of a Haj pilgrimage.

Shelley Gruskin leads "An Early Music Concert" at Sacred Heart Music Center (201 W. 4th St., Duluth) at 3:00pm on Sunday, April 30. He will be joined by singers from LOON COR, Lyric Opera of the North's new professional ensemble; instrumentalists from the DSSO; and organists Velda Graham Bell, Karen Hanson Sande, and Charles Sundquist. Repertoire includes a Jacobean-era masque, a recorder concert by Anton Heberle and Renaissance organ pieces played on the Felgemaker pipe organ. The concert is free with a suggested \$20 donation.

Thank you to Alex Flinner, Tommy Kishida and the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.

Music reprinted and broadcast under OneLicense #A-704169, CCLI License #388862 and CCS WORSHIPcast License #12033. All rights reserved.

Ways to give to support your church: give online at fumcduluth.com OR text COPPERTOP to 73256 OR mail to FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811



Come, Now Is the Time to Worship



Words and music by Brian Doerksen. Copyright 1998 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire)
All rights reserved. Reprinted under CCLI License #388862