

*First United Methodist Church*  
**Sunday, April 28, 2024**  
**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.

A nursery for children ages 5 and under is on the lower level and includes a Bible lesson. Sunday School for children K-5th grade will be held in the upper-level Children's Lounge following the Children's Message. Please pick up your kids in the Lounge after worship.

**Prelude**

*Earth and All Stars*  
*This is My Father's World*

Velda Graham Bell, organ

Michael Burkhardt  
Stephen Gabrielsen

**Welcome and Announcements**

Mission Moment: John Wolforth of Braver Angels

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**Call to Worship**

One: You have called us to be weavers,

**All: Mending Earth's fragile web.**

One: You have called us to be weavers,

**All: Cleansing water, air, and land.**

One: You have called us to be weavers,

**All: Spinning threads of justice and shalom.**

**All: Restless Weaver, give us courage to dare to live our dreams of transformation. Let your love guide all we do.**

Charlie Orsak

**\* Hymn**

*Restless Weaver*

attachment

**Children's Message**

Pastor Jeanine Alexander and Victoria Moses

*Children may leave for Sunday School following the Children's Message.*

**Morning Prayer**

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Pastor Jeanine Alexander, Jean Walsh, Liz Taylor, Kelsey Hanson

**Responsive Prayer**

Musical response is attached

One: Creator of the world and us all, may we use the world's resources we need with love, humility, and thoughtfulness, without guilt, without fear, without waste.

**Musical Response: sing verse 1, "Touch the Earth Lightly"**

One: May we live in harmony with the earth. May we live together with the animals with which we share the planet, being careful not to harm them or their habitats. 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.**

**Musical Response: sing verse 2**

One: 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 and life, and kept healthy and clean.

**Musical Response:** *sing verse 3*

One: May we live in harmony with the earth. Let us join our voices with all creation, praying:

**All:** **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.**

**Musical Response:** *sing verse 4*

One: We seal our prayer together, saying:

**All:** **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.**

**Anthem**      *Canticle of Hope*

Cynthia Dobrinski

Cast in Bronze; Bill Alexander, director

**Scripture Reading**

Kelsey Hanson

**Hebrews 11:32 – 12:2**

I could go on and on, but I’ve run out of time. There are so many more – Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets. ... Through acts of faith, they toppled kingdoms, made justice work, took the promises for themselves. They were protected from lions, fires, and sword thrusts, turned disadvantage to advantage, won battles, routed alien armies. Women received their loved ones back from the dead. There were those who, under torture, refused to give in and go free, preferring something better: resurrection. Others braved abuse and whips, and, yes, chains and dungeons. We have stories of those who were stoned, sawed in two, murdered in cold blood; stories of vagrants wandering the earth in animal skins, homeless, friendless, powerless – the world didn’t deserve them! – making their way as best they could on the cruel edges of the world. Not one of these people, even though their lives of faith were exemplary, got their hands on what was promised. God had a better plan for us: that their faith and our faith would come together to make one completed whole, their lives of faith not complete apart from ours. Do you see what this means – all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we’d better get on with it. Strip down, start running – and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed – that exhilarating finish in and with God – he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he’s *there*, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. *That* will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

**Sermon**      *A Letter to My Students: Courage for Our Journey*

Geoff Bell

**Anthem**      *You Do Not Walk Alone*

Elaine Hagenberg

Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

**Offering Our Gifts**

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Unveiling the progress of our LED project

**Unison Prayer of Dedication: 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 our awareness that we depend upon you and your creation for all that we call “ours.” In your name. Amen!**

**\* Hymn**      *Let All Things Now Living*

The Faith We Sing #2008

## Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**All: We hold in our care and prayers all who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change. We hold all species that suffer. We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life. We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions. We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help our already suffering earth community. We pray that love and wisdom might inspire our actions, and our actions as communities, so that we may with integrity look into the eyes of all beings and truthfully say we are doing our part to care for them now and in the future. May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life! Amen.**

## Postlude

*Praise and Thanksgiving*

Dale Wood

Velda Graham Bell, organ

\* please stand as you are comfortable



## Announcements

*Please remember to fill out the **Connect Cards** each week. 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, 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.*

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

***Let's Brighten Up the Coppertop!** We are raising money to replace all 620 of our old fluorescent lightbulbs with new LED bulbs. LED bulbs use approximately 75% less electricity and last 25 times longer than traditional bulbs. Stop at the Trustees/Sustainability table in the Narthex to see how you can help.*

***Explore FUMC**, a class for anyone interested in joining the church or simply learning more about our ministries, will be held following worship **today** in the Fireside Lounge. Join Pastor Jeanine and our new Director of Welcome, Greg Leiviska, for coffee, doughnuts and conversation. Childcare is available. This is the only session needed to join the church.*

***Faith Forum** is held Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge. Next week, **May 5**, Pastor Jeanine and Rev. MaryAnne will update us on the latest from Annual Conference. The following week, **May 12**, David Peterson will talk about his African safari photos currently displayed in the Fireside Lounge.*

***Next Sunday, May 5**, is Garden Sunday. Geraniums and dahlias will be for sale to raise money for the Memorial Gardens. Garden cleanup will be Thursday, May 16, beginning at 9am (rain date is May 17). See the May First Family for more spring garden dates. Join this fun group of gardeners – no experience necessary!*



***Next Sunday, May 5**, we will have the opportunity to thank Mary Giese for her years of service as our Director of Welcome. She has done an outstanding job living "welcome" in her every word and action. A basket will be available for cards for Mary.*

**Rhubarb Pie Season** is coming! On **Monday, May 6**, starting at 9:30am, we will be making, rolling, and freezing pie crusts to fulfill our pledge of 200 strawberry rhubarb pies for the CHUM Rhubarb Festival on June 29. 6-15 volunteers are needed to help any time between 9:30 and 2:00pm that day. We need to make 400 crusts! Rolling pins will be provided or you can bring your own. Friends and neighbors welcome! Contact Anita Zager at [anitazager@gmail.com](mailto:anitazager@gmail.com).

**Graduate Recognition Sunday** will be **May 19** at the 10am worship service. We'll be honoring all high school and post-secondary graduates. **Please let Pastor Jeanine or the church office know** if you or a family member is graduating. Tell us where you are graduating from and what your future plans are. **High School Graduates:** you are invited for lunch that day at Buffalo Wild Wings, hosted by Pastor Jeanine and Larry Ehresman.

**Riley Hinnenkamp** invites you to his senior voice recital on **Tuesday, April 30** at 7:30pm. The recital will be held at the University of Wisconsin Superior in the Webb Recital Hall at the Holden Fine and Applied Arts Center (1805 Catlin Avenue, Superior). Riley has been working hard preparing for this recital and he would love to share this music with his church family.

**Safe Haven Shelter**, a local shelter for domestic abuse survivors, is collecting used cell phones and their chargers to give to their clients who need to be able to discreetly reach 911 emergency services. They work with a Florida company to refurbish and repair old phones. If you have phones and chargers to donate, please bring them to Safe Haven's Resource Center at 414 W. 1st. St., Duluth, between 8am and 4pm, Monday-Friday.

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

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## **Ways You Can Help Your Church**



**Volunteers are needed** to make pie crusts on Monday, May 6, any time between 9:30am and 2pm. Contact Anita Zager, [anitazager@gmail.com](mailto:anitazager@gmail.com)

**Volunteers are needed** to help with garden cleanup on Thursday, May 16, at 9am (raindate is May 17). Contact Marlene Bowen, [mboxen73@gmail.com](mailto:mboxen73@gmail.com)

**Ways to give to support your church:** give online at [fumcduluth.com](http://fumcduluth.com) OR text COPPERTOP to 73256 OR mail to FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811.



# Restless Weaver

F Gm/F F Dm/FC/F F

1. Rest - less Weav - er, ev - er spin - ning threads of jus - tice and sha - lom;  
 2. Wherearth's fra - gile web is rav - eling, help us mend each bro - ken strand.  
 3. When our vio - lent lust for pow - er ends in lives a - bused and torn,  
 4. Rest - less Weav - er, still con - ceiv - ing new life now and yet to be

F Dm/F Gm F/A Gm9 C7/G F

dream - ing pat - terns of cre - a - tion where all crea - tures find a home;  
 Bless our ur - gent, bold en - deav - ors cleans - ing wa - ter, air, and land.  
 from com - pas - sion's stur - dy fab - ric fash - ion hope and trust re - born.  
 bind - ing all your vast cre - a - tion in one liv - ing tap - es - try:

F F/E Dm Gm/D Dm Dm7 G7 C

gath - ering up life's var - ied fi - bers ev - ery tex - ture, ev - ery hue:  
 Through the Spir - it's in - spir - a - tion of - f'ring health where once was pain.  
 Where in - just - tice rules as ty - rant, give us cour - age, God, to dare  
 you have called us to be weav - ers. Let your love guide all we do.

F Dm Gm/B<sub>b</sub> Gm9 F/A B<sub>b</sub>maj<sub>7</sub> F

grant us your crea a - tive vi - sion. With us weave your world a - new.  
 Strength - en us to be the stew - ards of your world knit whole a - gain.  
 live our dreams of trans - for - ma - tion. Make our lives in - car - nate prayer.  
 With your reign of peace our pat - tern, we will weave your world a - new.

# Touch the Earth Lightly

1. Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,  
 2. We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,  
 3. Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,  
 4. God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

nour - ish the life of the world in our care:  
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,  
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,  
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,  
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter,  
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,  
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.  
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!  
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.  
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Music: Colin Gibson.

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