

First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation
April 18, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#).

Prelude: Tolling of the Bell

Testimony and Welcome

Betsy Barrett

Announcements and Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music

The Fountain of Life

Marty Haugen (2002)

Love is flowing from the fountain of life.
Peace is pouring from the fountain of life.
Hope is springing from the fountain of life.

Call to Worship

One: In the beginning God created and proclaimed everything

Many: Good!

One: The plants of the field, the trees and vines **good!**

One: The rivers and streams, creeks and lakes, oceans and seas **good!**

One: The reptiles and creatures with fins, the furry and woolly ones, the hooved and feathered ones **good!**

One: The air, salt, minerals, rocks, mountains, valleys and plains **good!**

One: The insects, worms, bugs, bees and flies **good!**

One: The planets, stars, moons and asteroids **good!**

One: Trans bodies, black bodies, brown bodies, white bodies **good!**

One: All of it, God proclaimed **good!**

One: So come and taste, smell, and see how good our God is as we worship.

Opening Hymn

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

Lasst uns erfreuen

**To you, O God, all creatures sing
And all creation, everything
Sings your praises, alleluia!
Your burning sun with golden beam,
Your silver moon with softer gleam
Sing your praises, alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Your wind that blows the tempest by,
Your clouds that sail across the sky
Sing your praises, alleluia!
Your morning rises with a song,
And lights of evening sing along;
Sing your praises, alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Your flowing waters, crystal clear,
Make melodies for you to hear,
Sing your praises, alleluia!
Your fire, bountiful and bright,
Remembering your warmth and light,
Sings your praises, alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

To you, O God, day after day,
Your planet earth in every way
Sings your praises, alleluia!
As savory fruit and fragrant flower
Show forth your glory and your power,
Singing praises, alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Time With Children

God's word is for all God's children; come gather, come gather.
You're never too old for stories; come listen, come listen.

Scripture

Romans 12:2
Luke 24:36b-48

Sermon *Resurrection, Transformation and God's Call to Respond to the Climate Crisis* Rev. Dr. Jim Antal

Prayer Hymn

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

Tallis' Canon

Creating God, your fingers trace
The bold designs of farthest space;
Let sun and moon and stars and light
And what lies hidden praise your might.

Sustaining God, your hands uphold
Earth's myst'ries known or yet untold;
Let water's fragile blend with air,
Enabling life, proclaim your care.

Redeeming God, your arms embrace
All now despised for creed or race.
Let peace, descending like a dove,
Make known on earth your healing love.

Sung Call to Prayer

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

The Prayers

You are invited to share prayers with the congregation using the Zoom chat function.

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayers and Reflection

Sung Response

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to unmute and pray the words most meaningful to you, or follow with the version here:

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory

Seasons and Times

Alice Parker (1925-)

Seasons and times obey his voice,
The ev'ning and the morn rejoice
To see the earth made soft with show'rs,
Laden with fruit and dress'd in flow'rs.

He sends the sun his circuit round,
To cheer the fruits, to warm the ground;
He bids the clouds with plenteous rain
Refresh the thirsty earth again.

Thy works pronounce thy pow'r divine,
O'er ev'ry field thy glories shine;
Through ev'ry month thy gifts appear;
Great God, thy goodness crowns the year.

—from Psalms 65 and 68, tr. Isaac Watts

Prayer of Thanks

We are your partners for good, loving God. Our generosity is but one expression of our devotion to you and serving the common good of your bounteous creation. Multiply our gifts so they may be fruitful for your transforming love abounding through us. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

For the beauty of the earth,	For the wonder of each hour	For the joy of human love,
For the splendor of the skies,	Of the day and of the night,	Brother, sister, parent, child,
For the love which from our birth	Hill and vale, and tree and flower,	Friends on earth and friends
Over and around us lies,	Sun and moon, and stars of light,	above,
God of all, to you we raise	God of all, to you we raise	For all gentle thoughts and mild,
This our hymn of grateful praise.	This our hymn of grateful praise.	God of all, to you we raise
		This our hymn of grateful praise

Benediction

Postlude

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Jan Bender (1909-1994)

We are so glad you joined us for worship today!

We will gather in Breakout Rooms for conversation and community following the Postlude. There will be an opportunity for Q&A with our guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Jim Antal.

News to Note

Welcome to worship at First UCC! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#). Other questions about our community? Please contact Pastor Wendy (pastorwendy@firstucc.org) or Pastor Lauren (pastorlauren@firstucc.org).

New Member Orientation

Join Us! First UCC will welcome new members on Sunday, May 16 during Sunday worship on Zoom. A New Member Orientation session will be held via Zoom after the worship on May 2 at 11:45 a.m. Interested in attending orientation? Contact Jean Haslett, Membership Team Chair, hasletts66@yahoo.com or 507-650-0753.

Pentecost Video Project

Would you like to be part of our Pentecost Celebration on Sunday, May 23? Whether we are able to launch hybrid worship that day or not, we want to create a shared experience that ties us together. We are looking for folks willing to video themselves "sharing the Spirit," similar to the passing of the light we did for Christmas Eve. If you are game or want to learn more, please [sign up here](#). The deadline for submission of videos will be May 10.

April 25 Learning Opportunity: Regi Haslett-Marroquin on Regenerative Agriculture

Following worship on Sunday, April 25, we welcome Reginaldo (Regi) Haslett-Marroquin, who will present on indigenous agriculture, the ancestral ways of living within nature's cycles. Regi will also announce Salvatierra Farm, a 75-acre agroforestry-based regenerative poultry farm production just outside of Northfield. To join Regi's presentation April 25, simply stay on Zoom after worship has ended.

ISAIAH

"Too often, 'political' is misunderstood as 'partisan'. But the Christian call to be political is literally about the mandate to care for the public's welfare," notes ISAIAH in its Palm Sunday newsletter. The state legislature this week launched the final period to pass any bills and set the budget for the next 2 years. Your voice and values are needed! Questions about legislation or voicing your views? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued giving during this time of pandemic! First UCC's ministry continues thanks to your generosity. You may give electronically by visiting our website and clicking the "[Donate Online Now!](#)" button, under the Giving tab. You may also visit our website and complete the [electronic giving authorization form](#) and mailing it to the church % "The Treasurer." Gifts may be mailed to First UCC, 300 Union Street, Northfield, MN 55057.

Care Ministry Team

A note from the UCC Care Ministry Team: WE ARE HERE FOR YOU! Please know that the Care Ministry Team wants to know if you have any needs that can be met by us or members of our congregation. We serve as the extra eyes and ears of the church, so please speak with any member of our Care Team if you or someone you know is in need of extra support--anything from meals, rides, deliveries of essential needs (groceries, meds, etc.), or weekly check-ins. We can connect you with congregational support. You can also continue to check in with the pastors. Our team is: Barbara Crouter (507-645-6592); Linda Larson (612-709-6795); Elizabeth O'Sullivan (507-321-1221); Bill Poehlmann (507-645-5422); Katharine Powers (651-492-5488); Kathy Sandberg (507-210-2219); Jan Shoger (507-645-5236); Kellee Tussing (952-210-4028); Gina Washburn (507-210-8270); Bonnie and Larry Fowler (507-645-6930).

For additional news and announcements, please visit firstucc.org/contact-us/the-chronicle/ and subscribe to receive weekly editions of The Chronicle, First UCC's e-news, and view recent editions.

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First United Church of Christ Leadership and Staff

Ministers—all the people

Moderator—Sam Steinberg

Interim Senior Minister—Wendy Vander Hart

Minister for Congregational Life—Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music—Chris Brunelle

Organist—Theo Wee

Sexton—Mark Fischer

Spirit Voices Director/Arts Coordinator—Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Director of Communications & Operations—Green Bouzard