

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 25, 2021
EARTH DAY CELEBRATION SUNDAY

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

FOR YOUR MEDITATION

*“KNOW THAT YOU ARE ONE WITH THE EARTH, WITH THE WATER,
WITH THE FIRE, WITH THE AIR THAT YOU BREATHE, WITH ALL LIVING THINGS,
AND THAT ALL OF THESE ARE ONE WITH SPIRIT.*

- JONATHAN LOCKWOOD HUIE”

We enter, never as strangers, but always as guests of God. If you come as a stranger, please know it is our intention you leave as a friend. No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, we welcome you this morning! May you experience God’s presence, and receive the blessing God has prepared for you.

THE PRELUDE

A WELCOME IN CHRISTIAN LOVE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

Let us welcome each other with a word or gesture of peace.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

THE INTROIT

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST & PEACE CANDLES

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

CONGREGATIONS RESPONSE IS **“God did!”**

***HYMN OF PRAISE** (NCH - black) # 31 *“All Things Bright and Beautiful”*

All Things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.

1. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors and their tiny wings.

2. The purple headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset and the morning brighten up the sky.

3. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made every one.

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
(unison) (we use "sins")

Holy One, we thank You for bringing us to this time of worship; a time to refresh and to renew our spirits. We come together this day to celebrate Your creation; the beauty that surround us, the economy of farmlands providing us with food, the abundance of Your fields that grant us manna. All are blessings flowing from Your goodness. Guide our hearts and our spirits to recognize the spirit of Christ in all creation. Teach us to love Earth, and care for others as family. We pray this in the name of Christ, who taught us to pray:

*"Our Father, 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen*

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S LIVING WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Children are invited to come forward)

SCRIPTURE READING: Old Testament: Genesis 1.1-30 "*The Birth of Earth*"
Lay Readers – Enryce & Errington Henry

Genesis 1:1-30 The Message (MSG)

1-2First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss. 3-5God spoke: "Light!" And appeared. God saw that light was good and separated light from dark. God named the light Day, he named the dark Night. It was evening, it was morning— Day One. 6-8God spoke: "Sky! In the middle of the waters; separate water from water!" God made sky. He separated the water under sky from the water above sky. And there it was: he named sky the Heavens; It was evening, it was morning— Day Two. 9-10God spoke: "Separate!

Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into one place; Land, appear!” And there it was. God named the land Earth. He named the pooled water Ocean. God saw that it was good.

11-13God spoke: “Earth, green up! Grow all varieties of seed-bearing plants, Every sort of Fruit-bearing tree.” And there it was. Earth produced green seed-bearing plants, all varieties, And fruit-bearing trees of all sorts. God saw that it was good. It was evening, it was morning— Day Three. 14-15God spoke: “Lights! Come out! Shine in Heaven’s sky! Separate Day from Night. Mark seasons and days and years, Lights in Heaven’s sky to give light to Earth.” And there it was. 16-19God made two big lights, the larger to take charge of Day, The smaller to be in charge of Night; and he made the stars. God placed them in the heavenly sky to light up Earth And oversee Day and Night, to separate light and dark. God saw that it was good. It was evening, it was morning— Day Four. 20-23God spoke: “Swarm, Ocean, with fish and all sea life! Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!” God created the huge whales, all the swarm of life in the waters, And every kind and species of flying birds. God saw that it was good. God blessed them: “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Ocean! Birds, reproduce on Earth!” It was evening, it was morning— Day Five. 24-25God spoke: “Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind: cattle and reptiles and wild animals—all kinds.” And there it was: wild animals of every kind, Cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug. God saw that it was good. 26-28God spoke: “Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.” God created human beings; he created them godlike, Reflecting God’s nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.” 29-30Then God said, “I’ve given you every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth And every kind of fruit-bearing tree, given them to you for food. To all animals and all birds, everything that moves and breathes, I give whatever grows out of the ground for food.” And there it was.

SERMON:

“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”

HYMN

“We’ve Got God’s World in Our Hands”
(Tune: He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands)

We’ve got God’s World, in our hands,
We’ve got God’s World, in our hands,
We’ve got God’s World, in our hands,
We’ve got God’s World, in our hands,

We’ve got the rivers and the oceans, in our hands,
We’ve got the rivers and the oceans, in our hands
We’ve got the rivers and the oceans, in our hands
We’ve got God’s World, in our hands,

We’ve got all of God’s creatures, in our hands,
We’ve got all of God’s creatures, in our hands,
We’ve got all of God’s creatures, in our hands,
We’ve got God’s World, in our hands,

We’ve got the trees and the plants, in our hands,
We’ve got the trees and the plants, in our hands,
We’ve got the trees and the plants, in our hands,
We’ve got God’s World, in our hands,

We’ve got all of God’s creation, in our hands,
We’ve got all of God’s creation, in our hands,
We’ve got all of God’s creation, in our hands,
So we need to take care of his world.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

WE BRING GOD OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER

OFFERTORY *“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”*

We covenant with God through our tithes and offerings

Invitation to the Offering and Greening of The Cross

The Congregation is invited, as able, to come forth and place greenery on the cross, as a symbol of their commitment to help care for God's creation—our wonderful planet Earth.

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

ANTIPHONAL PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN - (NCH - black) # 28 *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
2. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
3. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
4. For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faithful that never tires, and for every heart renewed.

ANTIPHONAL SENDING OUT

We will celebrate with Earth!

We will care for creation!

We will nurture our planet!

We will celebrate life!

We go in peace, serving Christ with joy and thanksgiving!

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - NCH # 81** “God Be with You” vs 1

God be with you till we meet again; By good counsel guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you until we meet again

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

THE POSTLUDE

**The end of worship, the beginning of service.
Go forth and serve God gladly.**

* “We extend our spirits to God”

We Welcome all who worship with us this morning. If you are a visitor and have no church home, we hope you find a home here. If you are “passing through,” we offer you God’s blessings as you continue on your journey, and thank you for sharing with us.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PRAYER REQUESTS PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL MICHELE IN ORDER FOR HER TO HAVE THEM ANNOUNCED IN THE BULLETIN.

WEEKLY PRAYER

Let us seize hold
of the Living God,
The weaver of heaven and earth,
The eternal, the true and holy one.
Let us bring our past,
the present day, the promise of the future.
Let us seize hold of the wonder of God’s love,
And place our hands in the hands of the One
Who takes all that is ordinary,
And makes it extraordinary.
~ Christine Sine

LAY READER – Anyone wishing to share in the leadership of worship by reading the Scripture or bringing a children’s sermon, please sign-up on the appropriate list in the Parish Hall and speak with Dixie Silvestri.

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

April – Jack Sabine

May – Lou Scotti

Stewardship Sunday

April 18th was Stewardship Sunday. It is the time of year each of us gives a commitment of our collective talent and financial support to the functioning of our house of worship to the Glory of God.

The past year has been very different for us with a worldwide pandemic and difficult in a variety of ways for every one of us. But we have persevered and come through with the talents and continued financial support from our church members.

Many have done more and different things to keep our church going. Deacons, Ministers and music people worked extra hard to provide our worship service outdoor or indoors with You Tube for those at home. Thanks to video producer Dave and sound man Tim. I have not been apart of that, but I can see it is much more work and commitment each week.

The Fair Committee with others helping have done a lot of work; each week to host a new fund raiser for the church with Second Saturday Sustenance, making and selling soup and breads each month.

Many things still go on for this church by many others. This is Stewardship. It's a year long program we all do in whatever measure we are able to do. The church would not exist without the help of all our wonderful members.

Peace be with you Charlotte

Second Saturday Sustenance - MAY 8th

Order Louisiana GUMBO and Mozzarella & Parmesan

Bread to go!

ORDER and PAY BEFORE May 2nd & PICK UP May 8th



Go on our website to download an order form or place your online order!

[https://columbiacongregationalchurch.org/Sustenance Saturdays](https://columbiacongregationalchurch.org/Sustenance%20Saturdays)

You can also **donate** to *HEIFER INTERNATIONAL* (Church School Fundraiser) using the order form.

Any questions? **Email us at CCChurchFair@gmail.com**

*******Thank You to those of you that have already donated! *******

The Heifer campaign is still going. How can you help? Please spread the word to friends and family.

There are a variety ways to donate:

> Online using our **team donation page:**

<https://fundraise.heifer.org/ColumbiaCongregational2021>

> Via the **Second Saturday Sustenance Order form**

> **Write a check** to Columbia Congregational Church with "HEIFER" on the memo line. Please mail it to: Columbia Congregational Church, PO Box 177, Columbia, CT 06237

Stay tuned for more information and fun activities.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (860) 228-9306 or Church email: ccchurch@snet.net

Pastor Maryann's day off will usually be on Friday. Her normal office hours are Monday through Thursday 9:30AM -1:00PM. In case of pastoral emergency she can be reached at her home number 860-633-5833.

NOTES ON THE TEXT

April 28, 2021

Genesis 1.1-30

The creation story is cast in the form of a prose poem.

In sparse, austere language, it speaks of God, the world, and humans in relationship to each other and reveals the basic and unalterable dependence of the world on the presence of God.

(It) tells, with the assurance of faith, of life's foundations, and it is in the light of this faith that it must be read and understood.

The six days of creation form two groups of three, and there is a correspondence between the pairs formed by the respective days of the two groups:

Day 1: Light (1:3-5) Day 4: Lights (1:14:19)

Day 2: Dome (1:6-8) Day 5: Fish/birds (1:20-23)

Day 3: Earth/seas/vegetation (1:9-13) Day 6: Animals/people (1:24-31)

There were, then, eight creative acts in the six days of creation. Days 3 and 6 each have two creative acts, the Earth/Sea separation and vegetation for Day 3 and land animals and people for Day 6.

We must remember that the writer's purpose is not to transmit scientific data but to tell exiled Israelites that God is the creative force behind the universe—and to encourage them with the knowledge that, in spite of their current circumstances, they are in the hands of a loving and all-powerful God who will redeem them. We should also remember that, to God, a thousand days are as an evening's watch (Psalm 90:4).

The creation for each day follows a basic pattern, but with enough variation to maintain our interest:

- “God said”—God is the creator and God's word is the creative force
- “Let there be” or “Let the”—God commands creation
- “and there was”—God's command is executed
- “And God saw that (the creation) was good”—God evaluates the creation
- “God called”—God names the creation
- “There was evening and there was morning, (number) day”

On Days 1, 3, 4, and 5, God pronounces the creation “good” (1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25).

On Day 2, there is no such pronouncement—perhaps because the work of Day 2 (separating waters-above from waters-below) will not be fully concluded until Day 3 (with the gathering together of the waters-below). On Day 6, after creating humans, God “saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was *very good*” (v. 31)—presumably God's commentary on creation in general and on human creation in particular.

Days 5, 6, and 7 each include a blessing—of birds and sea life (v. 22)—of humans (v. 28)—and of the seventh day (2:3). Days 5 and 6 were the days when God populated the earth with living beings of various kinds. Day 7, of course, was the day that God rested.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

*Sunday (25th)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Earth Day Celebration

10:00AM Morning Worship with Pastor MaryAnn Purtill
11:15AM Virtual Coffee Hour
1:00 PM Walking Group
4:00 PM Virtual Church School

*Monday (26th)

*Tuesday (27th)

7:00 PM Church Council Meeting

*Wednesday (28th)

10:00 AM Fair Workshop

7:00 PM Handbell Choir

*Thursday (29th)

*Friday (30th)

*Saturday (1st)

*Sunday (2nd)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:00AM Morning Worship with Pastor MaryAnn Purtill

11:15AM Deacons Meeting

1:00 PM Walking Group

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