



First Church in Windsor, UCC: *Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope*

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Earth Sunday
April 30, 2023, at 10 a.m.**

Holy Vessels: Holy and Whole in Easter

Prelude

Welcome

Threshold Moment

Song

Celtic Alleluia

Words and music by Christopher Walker
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**Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia!**

Opening Prayer

God, we know that Earth and all of its fullness is your sacred, holy vessel, and you are the seed within the seed, giving life and sustaining all your creatures. For this, we give you praise and thanksgiving. Remind us in this worship hour and every day, that all life is interwoven, that the whole fabric of creation is held together by the thread of your light and that Earth is your planet, our home, where you run through all things, filling everything. Remind us that you are the One who is always and everywhere present, closer to us than we are to ourselves and that our call is to cherish Earth and care for all life as guardians of Your creation. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Response: **And also with you.**

Please make sure to wave to our online community, send a text message of peace to someone, or pass the peace in the chat on Facebook.

Opening Hymn

God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

Words by Catherine Cameron

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Music from Columbia Harmony

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**God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space;
we, your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you;
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.**

**We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,
facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.**

**As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew;
children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor, well begun;
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.**

Children's Moment

Prayer of our Savior

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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Scriptures

Genesis 1, selected verses

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light", and there was light...

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And it was so. God called the dome Sky...

And God said "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place and let the dry land appear." And it was so. And God called the dry land Earth and the waters he called Seas.

Then God said "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind..."

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night"...God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night..

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky". So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind...

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of every kind..."

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness and they have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in God's own image, in that image God created them; male and female God created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth. ... And God saw everything that God had made and indeed it was very good."

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree

"Are We Done Yet?"

Anthem

Let All the People Say 'Amen'

By Pepper Choplin

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Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

Sanctuary

Words and music by John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs

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**Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary
Pure and holy
Tried and true
And with thanksgiving
I'll be a living
Sanctuary, for you**

Announcements

Online Giving

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. If you wish, you may give online [here](#).

Closing Hymn

Pray for the Wilderness

Words by Dan Damon

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Traditional Scottish tune, public domain

**Pray for the wilderness, vanishing fast,
Pray for the rain forest, open and vast.
Pray for the waterfalls, pray for the trees,
Pray for the planet brought down by degrees.**

**Learn from the elephant, eagle, and whale,
Learn from the dragonfly, spider, and snail.
Learn from the people in neighboring lands,
Learn from the children who play in their sands.**

**Work for the justice created things need,
Work for the health of each plant and its seed.
Work for the creatures abused and betrayed,
Work for the garden God's wisdom once made.**

**Pray for the atmosphere, pray for the sea,
Learn from the river, the rock, and the tree.
Work till shalom in full harmony rings,
Trust the connection of all living things.**

Benediction

Postlude

Let All Things Now Living
Traditional Welsh tune
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