



Kairos-Milwaukie United Church of Christ

**Welcome, Kairos Family and Friends,
to Worship on Earth Day, April 19, 2020**

Coloring pages for the little ones are at the end of this document.

The Fierce Urgency of Now

Order of Worship

WELCOME

Announcements and tech adjustments.

GATHERING MUSIC

Lilly Breshears

Silence your phone
pour a cup of water, tea, or coffee
light a candle
breathe.

CALL TO WORSHIP *

Chris Christensen and Carolyn Rux

When astronauts first showed us our planet from the moon, they changed our perspective and our theology forever.

Turning and turning, our pale blue globe burns bright in the black spaces of eternity.

The Earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it – all life embodied in the only home we know.

God created life in the oceans, and continues to nourish it with nutrients from the mountains.

Trace the course of a river to its source; stand among the mountains and marvel.

Who would dare defile this paradise?

Jubilation, exaltation, celebration, one and all!

Within the womb of the heavens, the Earth leaps to praise its Creator.

As the pearl necklace of planets swing around the sun, as the shining oceans embrace the continents, so do all living things praise the Giver of Life.

For God expressed a thought, and the thought took life.

God wanted to speak, and the Word became flesh and lived among us.

In that Word was holiness, the spirit that makes every life more than the sum of its chemicals.

From the tiniest plankton in the sea to the great whales, from the ants that burrow in the dust to the eagle that soars in the heavens – all owe their existence to God.

**Fire and hail, snow and frost, sun and drought, wind and rain
– in God, all things work together for good.**

Mighty mountains compost into rich soil;



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fruit trees and maples aerate the atmosphere.

The dung beetle depends on the waste of cattle;

Birds and wind currents carry seeds to new orchards.

Not one part is cut off from God's energy;

Everything has been equally created to live interdependently.

God scatters new life even among weeds and thistles;

And all Creation responds with rejoicing.

*From Psalm 24 and 148, "Earth-rise" & "God's Profligate Generosity"
Everyday Psalms by James Taylor Copyright © 2005, Wood Lake Books

HYMN

Morning Has Broken

Ian Timmons

(Our various internet speeds prevent us from singing together, so please remember to stay muted on Zoom. Also, please delight your housemates by singing along with gusto).

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Will Fuller

O Divine Voice, You sing and the universe comes into being;
O Divine Breath, You breathe and all things spring to life;
O Divine Word, You call and creation is sustained;
O Divine Flesh, You are born among us, and the Creator is clothed in creation;
O Divine Spirit, You fill all that has been formed;
O Divine Life, pulse of all that is, awaken us to your presence and fill us with your power.

SILENT PRAYER OF UNBURDENING



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THE LIBERATING WORD

Ancient Testimony

Don Robertson

Ephesians 5: 1–2, 5–16 (“The Message” Translation)

¹⁻² Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn’t love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

⁵ You can be sure that using people or religion or things just for what you can get out of them—the usual variations on idolatry—will get you nowhere, and certainly nowhere near the kingdom of Christ, the kingdom of God.

⁶⁻⁷ Don’t let yourselves get taken in by religious smooth talk. God gets furious with people who are full of religious sales talk but want nothing to do with him. Don’t even hang around people like that.

⁸⁻¹⁰ You groped your way through that murk once, but no longer. You’re out in the open now. The bright light of Christ makes your way plain. So no more stumbling around. Get on with it! The good, the right, the true—these are the actions appropriate for daylight hours. Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.

¹¹⁻¹⁶ Don’t waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. It’s a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ.

Wake up from your sleep,
Climb out of your coffins;
Christ will show you the light!

So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!

LIBERATING WORD

Modern Testimony

Pete Rux

“Shelter in Place,” by Kim Stafford

Long before the pandemic, the trees
knew how to guard one place with
roots and shade. Moss found,
how to hug a stone for life.
Every stream works out how
to move in place, staying home



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even as it flows generously
outward, sending bounty far.
Now is our time to practice —
singing from balconies, sending
words of comfort by any courier,
kindling our lonesome generosity
to shine in all directions like stars.

REFLECTION

The Fierce Urgency of Now: Gifts in Received in the Time of Pandemic

Pastor Jeanne

We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-corona existence was not normal other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate and lack. We should not long to return, my friends. We are being given the opportunity to stitch a new garment. One that fits all of humanity and nature.
(Sonya Renee Taylor)

HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

Ian Timmons

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

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,
God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

OUR COMMITMENT TO ACT FOR THE HEALING OF THE EARTH SHARING THE SETBACKS AND SUCCESSES OF OUR GREEN RESOLUTIONS

“Hope has never trickled down. It has always bubbled up.” (Studs Terkel)

“Hope means another world might be possible, not promised, not guaranteed. Hope calls for action; action is impossible without hope. To hope is to give yourself to the future, and that commitment to the future makes the present inhabitable. Anything could happen, and whether we act or not has everything to do with it.” (Rebecca Solnit)



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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Prayer Song

Ian Timmons

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face
Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

Please feel free to unmute your zoom connection and share your joys and concerns.

Most compassionate life-giver, we honor and praise you:

May we work with you to establish your new order of justice, peace and love.

Give us what we need for growth, and help us, through forgiving others, to accept forgiveness.

Strengthen us in the time of testing that we may resist all evil.

For all the tenderness, strength and love are yours, now and forever.

(William L. Wallace translator).

CLOSING SONG

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dream my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
But hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Jeanne

SENDING SONG

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Ian Timmons

He's got the whole world in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

