



First Congregational Church

IN WINCHESTER, UCC

Order of Worship - Earth Sunday- April 18, 2021

"I used to think that if we threw enough good science at the environmental problems, we could solve them. I was wrong. The main threats to the environment are not biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change, as I once thought. They are selfishness and greed and pride.

And for that we need a spiritual and cultural transformation..."

James "Gus" Speth

Prelude	<i>Autumn Leaves</i>	Joseph Kosma/Jacques Prévert
Welcome and Call to Worship		Rev. Will Burhans
Opening Hymn	<i>The Earth Is the Lord's</i>	ST. DENIO ("Immortal, Invisible") Alternate text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
	"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." Creation reminds us, O God, of your love. By grace we are learning, as year leads to year, We're called to be stewards, your caretakers here.	
	Too often, O God, we abuse your good earth. We fail to remember its beauty and worth. We take from creation much more than we need, We threaten your world through indifference and greed.	
	May we be good stewards of all that you give, Protecting creation wherever we live. May we be a church that renews and restores And lovingly cares for this earth that is yours.	
Morning Prayer (by Walter Rauschenbusch)		Barry McArdle
The Lord's Prayer		
Time for the Young		Jake Greenberg
Scripture	Romans 12:2 Luke 24:36-48	Liturgist: Bruce and Linda Alexander
Introduction to Sermon		Rev. Jessica McArdle
Sermon	"Resurrection, Transformation & Climate Crisis"	Rev. Jim Antal
Offertory	<i>What a Wonderful World</i>	Bob Thiele/George David Weiss
Prayers for the People		Rev. Jessica McArdle and Community
Closing Hymn	<i>We Were Born Out of the Waters</i>	NETTLETON ("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

Alternate text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

We were born out of the waters that give life to all the earth.
We were made God's sons and daughters at the font of our rebirth.
Every day, God's waters bless us! We are nourished and renewed;
For the waters that surround us give us life and health and food.

God, we hear the troubling thunder of the shouts of "Profit first!"
Land and streams are torn asunder till creation cries in thirst.
God, we thirst for healthy waters and for justice for the land,
As your faithful sons and daughters, may we rise to take a stand.

God who made the whole creation, with its rivers, fields and streams,
You have given us a vision of what caring for them means.
May we care for all your waters, for your land, for sky above;
May we serve you as protectors of this world that you so love.

Benediction

Rev. Jessica McArdle

Postlude

On the Sunny Side of the Street Jimmy McHugh/Dorothy Fields

Rev. Will Burhans, Lead Pastor, Rev. Judy Arnold, Associate Pastor,

Jane Ring Frank, Minister of Music & Worship Arts, Jeffrey Mead, Keyboards

Kathleen Zagata, Minister of Health & Wellness, Jacob Greenberg, Interim Director Faith Formation Children & Youth

Special Thanks to our Jazz Band: Charles McPherson, keyboards; Andrew McPherson, trombone;
Sven Larson, bass; Rick Forzese, drums

Thanks to Daniel Khudyak who is our contract video editor!
www.danielkhudyak.com/ The password is dkhudyak

About our Guest Preacher: Jim Antal serves as Special Advisor on Climate Justice to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Antal's 2018 book, CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD, is being read by hundreds of churches. From 2006-2018, Antal led the 350 UCC churches in Massachusetts as their Conference Minister and President.

Please keep these people in your prayers:

Bruce Lauterwasser, for strength and healing as a new round of chemotherapy begins.

Prayers for Janet, Nina's (Nick Wankowicz's sister) next door neighbor. Janet is a young mother of 3 children under the age of 5 who was just diagnosed with cancer. It is all the harder because Janet's mother died recently. She needs our prayers.

Natalie Roche, at the loss of her brother.

Family and friends of Walter LaFeber, Suzy Kahl's father, in their grief.

Judson Booth, a longtime friend of Pastor Judy's family, who is having open heart surgery this week.

Dan and MaryLynn Bukey, Michelle Stewarts' parents, for healing and strength.

John Giblin, Deirdre's father, for continued recovery.

Elizabeth Thompson and her friends and family. Elizabeth had a stroke in June and has been declining. She is in the nursing facility at Brookhaven.

Glenn McPherson, Tony McPherson's brother, for healing as he awaits a kidney transplant.

Jane Ring Frank and Stephen Cole, for healing.

A prayer of mourning for all those who have died of COVID19, as Renée Graham described them in The Globe on 5/12/2020 they are: "...health care workers, military veterans, doting grandparents, church folk, Holocaust survivors, a man who helped liberate a concentration camp, cancer survivors, bikers, lawmakers, grocery store workers, neurobiologists, barbers, meat plant workers, accountants, truck and bus drivers, security guards and educators."

For all the Black Lives that have been extra-judicially and violently extinguished.

Olivia, for healing and help finding her way back to recovery.

All of the front line healthcare workers and first responders, for their safety.

Susan Zimmerman, Julianne's mother, For stabilization & relief from pain; and comfort for her family.