

First Congregational UCC, Longmont, Colorado
Discerning Christ's Way. Seeking Social Justice. Discovering the Holy.

April 18, 2010

Earth Day/Integrity of Creation

10:15 a.m. Worship

Gathering Music and Announcements
Responsive Welcome and Passing of the Peace
Procession with Drum and Chant

As the candles are lit we quiet and center ourselves for worship.

*Call to Worship

One: God's breath stirs the trees in the forest and the traffic lights in the city.

All: God, we feel your presence.

One: God's voice speaks in thunder and surf, in poem and concert hall.

All: God, we listen for your word.

One: God imagines blooming fields and bustling markets, silent lakes and welcoming meals.

All: God, we seek your will. Come let us worship our God!

*Hymn of Praise

"God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

(Black) #536

*Confession

Gracious God, your amazing love extends through time and space, to all parts of creation, which you made and pronounced good. Every rainbow in the sky remembers your covenant with the human family, a sign of your promise to love and bless every living creature, in communion with all who seek to tend the earth. Heal our planet, O God, that present and future generations may glorify you and enjoy your creation forever. Amen.

Anthem

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

-John Rutter

Children's Time

"Searching for Serendipity"

Marilyn Decker

Children 3rd grade and younger depart for Children's Worship after the Children's Time

Scripture

Psalm 65

(Pew Bibles p. 498)

Sermon

"Rejoicing in Creation"

Rev. Rick King

*Hymn

"Touch the Earth Lightly"

(Black) #569

Prayers Spoken and Silent (A litany adapted from the hymn, "Pray for the Wilderness", #557 in the Black Hymnal)

Pray for the wilderness, vanishing fast,
Pray for the rain forest open and vast;
Pray for the people who live in 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 each seed;
Work for the creatures abuse has betrayed,
Work for the garden God's wisdom once made.

Trust that God's Christ overcame nails and wood,
Trust that earth's people will turn to the good;
Trust that creation forever will grow,
Trust that God's goodness to us overflows.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

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 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.

Choral Response

Giving Ourselves and Our Gifts

*Response

Tune: Schumann S.M.

**We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

Children return from Children's Worship

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, we offer back to you what is yours. Whatever wealth or abundance lies in these plates was nurtured by your good rains, warmed by your sun and rested under the light of your stars before it became the fruit of our labors. Bless these gifts to the well-being of your world and all its inhabitants, that we might all praise your holy name. Amen.

*Benediction

*Recessional Hymn

"This is My Father's World"

(Red) #485

We'll recess through the Narthex to bless the gardens, bike rack, and end up in the courtyard for placing the Peace Pole, tree-planting, green cleaning products demo, recycling ideas, and other activities.