

First Congregational United Church of Christ

May 15, 2022



Photo by Lois Maniquet

5th Sunday of Easter

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere Musician: Francie Beaster

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Ann Russ

Liturgist: Barb Bottger

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship

People who love the morning: 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 the Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good.

People who love the afternoon: Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation; plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with seed in it.” And it was so; and God saw that it was good.

People who love the evening: Then God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky. Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so, and God saw that it was good.

People who love the night: Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, all the wild animals, and over everything that creeps upon the earth.” And it was so, God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Words of Lament

Merciful God, we lament for what cannot be stopped.... We lament for what cannot be changed... We lament for what cannot be undone.... We lament for what cannot be...

Creating and Creating God of Justice, Compassion, and Resurrection, help us to stop, change, undo, and let it be. Amen.

Words of Blessing (Based on Psalm 148)

One: Halleluiah! Praise the LORD! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights! Praise God, all angels; praise God, all heavenly host! Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all the shining stars!

Many: Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for God spoke and they were created. God established them forever and ever; fixed their boundaries, which cannot be passed.

All: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling the creation. Mountains and hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

One: Leaders of the earth and all peoples, privileged and poor of the earth, young people, old and young together!

Many: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for God’s love is exalted, his glory is above earth and heaven.

All: God raise up a horn for the people, praise for all the faithful, for the people who are close to God. Halleluiah!

Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peacemakers as a Just Peace Church.

INHERITANCE BY JOHN AGARD

If we, the children of the meek,
should inherit an earth
whose rainforest lungs
breathe a tale of waste –
an earth where the ailing sea
shudders in its own slick

If we, the children of the meek,
should inherit an earth
where the grass goes nostalgic
at the mere mention of green
and the sky looks out of its depth
when reminded of blue

If we, the children of the meek,
should inherit such an earth,
then we ask of the future
one question: Should we dance
or break into gnashing of teeth
at the news of our inheritance?

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture John 13:31-35 (The Message)

³¹⁻³² When Judas had left, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is seen for who he is, and God seen for who he is in him. The moment God is seen in him, God’s glory will be on display. In glorifying him, he himself is glorified—glory all around!

³³ “Children, I am with you for only a short time longer. You are going to look high and low for me. But just as I told the Jews, I’m telling you: ‘Where I go, you are not able to come.’

³⁴⁻³⁵ “Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other.”

2nd Scripture Revelation 21:1-6 (New Revised Standard Version)

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
God will dwell with them;
they will be God’s peoples,
and Godself will be with them and be their God;
⁴ God will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for^[e] the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also God said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then God said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Children’s Message Love

Message New Heaven and New Earth

Musical Reflections

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Creator, in whose image we are created, sacred is your name. Let the sacred come, let the sacred be done, in this world as in heaven. Give all life its daily sustenance. Forgive us our dominion-domination ways, as we forgive those who demean us. Lead us not on this path of global climate destruction, but deliver the fish, the birds, the animals, and plants from our destructive ways. For yours is the earth, the life, and the sacred, now and into eternity. Amen.

Our Time of Giving

Doxology

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Sending Music

Benediction