

**The Church of the Pilgrimage  
United Church of Christ**

Sunday, April 22, 2018

10:00am

Earth Day



**Rev. Dr. Helen Nablo, PASTOR  
Kim Engle, WORSHIP LEADER  
Kelley DePasqua, MUSIC DIRECTOR  
Michael Eaton, ORGANIST  
Jenny Healy, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN ED**

# Order of Worship

*Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

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## Prelude

Prelude on 'St. Columba'  
-Healy Willan 1880-1968

## Welcome and Announcements

## Choral Introit

### Call to Worship (*responsively*)

Thank you, God, for the people gathering around us today. Let us take this time to give thanks for these things of the earth that give us meaning in life.

**Thank you for the plants, animals, and birds that we use as food and medicine.**

Thank you for the natural world in which we find the means to be clothed and housed.

**Thank you, God, for the ability to use these gifts of the natural world.**

Help us to see our place among these gifts – not to squander them or think of them as means for selfish gain.

**May we respect the life of all you have made.**

**May our Spirit be strengthened by using only what we need and may we use our strength to help those who need us.**

\*Hymn No. 54

For the Beauty of the Earth

### \*Prayer of the Confession (*unison*)

Giver of Life, in the midst of a plundered earth we groan with creation:

**Have mercy on us.**

Giver of Life, in the midst of poisoned waters we groan with creation.

**Have mercy on us.**

Giver of Life, in the midst of polluted air we groan with creation:

**Have mercy on us.**

Giver of Life, in the midst of mountains of waste, we groan with creation:

**Have mercy on us.**

Giver of Life, in the midst of a world at war, and because of the church's sinful participation in the Doctrine of Discovery and Manifest Destiny, we groan with creation:

**Have mercy on us.**

Giver of Life, we who are made in the image of God have gone astray. Attitudes of conquest and greed harm us all. Creation groans with us.

**Have mercy on us.**

*Silence*

**\* Assurance of Pardon:** (*responsively*)

Thank you, God, for all that you have given us. Thank you for the beauty of the universe that you created: the trees, the sky, the stars, the mountains, the rain. All things hold beauty in themselves and all things are related and touch each universe of the earth. You created the rhythm and pattern of the universe in a harmony of movement, sight, and sound.

**Help us to appreciate your creation and to live with our eyes, ears, and hearts open to your message. Amen.**

**\* The Lord's Prayer** (*unison*)

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

**\* Gloria Patri** No. 36 (*unison*)

Glorify be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

**The Children's Message**

Jenny Healy

-----*Children depart for Outdoor Sunday School*-----

**Anthem**

Emerald Stream by Seth Houston

Come now and gather in the glade, Where the emerald stream and the evening shade, And meditate on the works he's made, Great God our

sov'reign Lord. Join us now, the meadow is green, And the water pure  
and the woods serene, And the flowing air is fresh and clean Where God  
his blessing pours. Feel the wind come down, hear it whistle as it goes It  
brings us sun and it brings us snows A blessing from above. And the sun  
comes up and the sun goes down And the stars and the moon go round  
and round In witness to his love. Hear now ye sons of men, For danger  
lurks in this great garden, The Lord will visit once again To see what we  
have done. As God is the shepherd and we are the sheep, We our mother  
Earth must keep, Maintain the air, protect the deep, At Judgement Day  
He'll come. See the Lord come down, hear Him whistle as he goes. He  
bears a thunderbolt and a rose. Remember all his pow'r. See the Lord  
come down, face shining bright. His holy feet are soiled, but his robe is  
white. You will regret that hour. So, now, my people beware. You're in  
charge of the seas and the Earth and the air. You'd better take  
extr'ordinary care Of the Earth, our only home. All glory be to God on  
high. Shout praises loudly to the sky! Listen to the Earth and hear her  
cry.

## **Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns**

### **Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response**

<b>Scripture Lesson</b>	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	OT179 or 163
<b>Sermon</b>	<i>Choosing Life</i>	Pastor Helen Nablo

**Affirmation of Faith** Chief Seattle, 1854

Teach your children what we have taught our children;  
that the earth is our mother.

This we know;

The earth does not belong to humanity;

Humanity belongs to the earth.

This we know.

All things are connected like the blood that unites one family.

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth.

Men and women did not weave the web of life:

They are merely strands in it.

Whatever they do to the web,  
they do to themselves.

## **Invitation to the Offering**

### **Offertory Anthem**

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name  
by Linda Lee Johnson and Tom Fetke

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of your fingers;  
The moon and stars suspended in space.  
Oh, what are we that you are mindful of?  
You have given man a crown of glory and honor,  
And have made us a little lower than the angels.  
You have put us in charge of all creation: beasts of the field,  
The birds of the air, The fish of the sea.  
Oh, what are we? Oh, what are we that you are mindful of us?  
O Lord, our God the majesty and glory of your name  
Transcends the earth and fills the heavens.  
O Lord, our God; little children praise  
You perfectly, And so would we.  
And so would we. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
The majesty and glory of Your name. Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **\*Doxology No. 44**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here  
below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy  
Ghost. Amen.

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

#### **\*Hymn**

Touch the Earth Lightly (*see insert*)

## **Benediction and Choral Response**

God is before us.

**God is behind us.**

God is above us.

**God is below us.**

God's words shall come from our mouths.

**For we are all God's essence, a sign of God's love.**

All is finished in beauty.

**All is finished in beauty.**

**Postlude**

Toccata

-David H. Hegarty b. 1945

*During the postlude you may remain seated,  
or rise to greet the pastor and proceed to coffee hour.*

Worship materials today are gleaned from "Environmental Justice with Indigenous Peoples", a creation justice resource from the United Church of Christ. The affirmation from Chief Seattle is from *Harvest for the World: A Worship Anthology on Sharing the Work of Creation*, edited by Geoffrey Duncan.

**Our Deacon In-Charge** is Susan Cotta.

**Our Greeters** are Linda and Frank Montague.

**The flowers** are in loving memory of Henry, Mary and Keith Dunlap. Given by Robert and Marylyn Dunlap Colburn.

### NOTES

**Welcome to worship at The Church of the Pilgrimage.** We will be worshipping in the JRC this Sunday, but hope to return to our usual sanctuary location next Sunday. If you are a visitor, please join us for coffee hour following worship and sign your name one of the pew cards and we will send you a copy of the church newsletter.

**Please silence your cell phones** so we can be fully present to the spirit and to one another.

**This morning we have nursery/cribroom care** with Kristin Moses, our childcare worker. Kristen is with us every Sunday.

**Hearing devices and copies of the morning sermon** are available on the table at the back, near the kitchen area of the JRC.

**Outdoor Sunday School!** We will be venturing down to the waterfront to help clean up trash. Children will depart after the time for children.

**Parking Notice:** If you have a handicapped license plate or placard you may park in any metered space for free. Also, the lower lot (down the hill from the JRC) and School St. are free on Sundays until 12 noon.

**It's Time to Sign Up! Summer Youth Mission Trip** – “The Providence Experience,” takes place August 11-14<sup>th</sup>. We need to have deposits (\$60) in to the church office this week.

**The Visitation Team** will meet this month on Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Marks Room.

**Confirmation Class will next meet next Sunday, April 29** right after worship. Participants (students only) be ready to share about your “interview” and also think together about ways to be involved in our May 20 (Pentecost) Worship Service.

**A celebration of life for Pastor Helen's father, Sam Nablo** will take place on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at Hancock Congregational Church in Lexington, MA.

**Pilgrim District Women** will gather at Christ Congregational Church (1350 Pleasant St, Brockton) on April 24<sup>th</sup>, gathering at 9:30am for coffee and fellowship. At 10am we will meet for devotions, followed by a short business meeting. The program following will be provided by Rev. Katrina Clinton and her partner, Jo Ellen Fisher telling us about their small business *Magnificata-Liturgical Artwork*. They create stoles, paraments and other liturgical regalia used to celebrate the word of God.

**Flowers:** There is an opening for pulpit flowers on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Please call Robin Trask (508-746-9340) if you wish to honor or memorialize someone with beautiful flowers in the sanctuary.

**Boston Gay Pride Parade:** Once again, the UCC Massachusetts Conference is inviting all local ONA churches to join together to march in the upcoming Gay Pride Parade in Boston. The date is Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Val Baumann (781-361-5589) or Pastor Helen (339-236-0525) if you are interested or would like more information.

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, April 23: Monday Meals, 11am, Allerton Hall.

Tuesday, April 24: Pilgrim Association Day of Covenant, Sandwich UCC; Deacons meet 7 pm in Marks Conference Room.

Wednesday, April 25: Bible Study, 10:30 am at Amy Simpson's home. Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm.

Thursday, April 26: Golf Tournament Meeting, 10am, Marks Room.

Sunday, April 29: Worship with baptism at 10am with Pastor Helen preaching; Confirmation Class takes place after worship.

### NOTICE

In accordance with the Bylaws of The Church of the Pilgrimage, the 2018 Annual Meeting will be held on May 6, 2018, following the Service of Worship.

The Purpose of the Meeting shall be:

1. To receive Reports of all Boards and Committees and Officers.
2. The election of Officers, Board and Committee Members.

All Church Members are urged to attend this important Meeting.

Lois E. Post



*As an Open and Affirming Congregation we invite all into our faith, to fully share in all church life, including our work, worship, rites, and sacraments, with the assurance that we are all created in God's image, reconciled by Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.*

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