

Visions United Spirit Gathering
4TH Sunday after Easter – April 21, 2024
EARTH SUNDAY

Our Community Gathers

Gathering Music/Prelude

Welcome

God's Doors Are Open to All!
Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts

Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all
 races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds,
 sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

Acknowledgement of Land

One: We remember with gratitude
 that we live and worship on lands that are, by law,
 the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaq.

**All: May we live with respect on this land,
 and in peace and friendship with its people.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Kindling a Flame for Peace & Sharing the Peace

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

Call to Worship

One: Whether we live near mountains or in the prairies---

All: We are one in Christ.

One: Whether our winters are balmy or our summers are cool---

All: We are one in Christ.

One: Whether we live near the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean
 or somewhere in the middle---

All: We are one in Christ.

One: Whether we live in urban dwellings, nestled in the suburbs,
 or surrounded by a rural landscape---

All: We are one in Christ.

One: In a spirit of unity, caring for each other and the whole of creation---

All: We are one in Christ.

*Adapted from the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, "Be the Church: Protect the Environment" worship service
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Gathering Prayer

Sharing of WOW Moments

Song: (*Standing*) VU#226 For the Beauty of the Earth (vs. 1,2,3) Words: Folliot S Pierpoint 1864
Music: David Evans 1927. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net#720804

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Creator God, we come before you
in a time of crisis, as much of your creation is struggling.
We search for causes, cures and ways we can work together
to halt actions that harm.
We ask for forgiveness where we have taken too much,
or cared too little.
Help us to be willing to listen, to change and to act.
May the knowledge of your presence
and the assurance of your love
Shape our time here today, and always. Amen

—Adapted from *For the Love of Creation*
Earth Sunday Service 2023

Story Protecting the Tree

READER: Anna Peters

Song MV#30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker (vs. 1,4) Words: Ruth Duck©1992 GIA Publications
Music: Ron Klusmeier©1992 www.muiklus.com. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net#720804

Children's Programming Begins

We Listen for Wisdom

Wisdom Reading

I John 3:16-24

READER: Art Vautour-Toole

Introduction to Earth Week, and to Learn, Pray, Act

LEARN

Trudy Colpitts

Song VU#296 This is God's Wondrous World (vs. 1,2) Words: Malthie D Babcock
1901 Music: English trad melody, adapt. Franklin Sheppard 1915, adapt. Stanley Oliver 1929 All rights reserved.
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PRAY

READER: Peggy White

Special Music: Each Blade of Grass

Words: Kerri k Wehlander©2205 www.creativeworship.ca

Music: anonymous 1799, adapt; arr. Linnea Good©2005 Borealis Music. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net#720804

ACT

READER: John Russell

Song MV#135 Called by Earth and Sky (Refrain, vs 1&2, refrain, vs 3&4, refrain)

Words&Music: Pat Mayberry©2005www.patmayberry.com;

French trans: David Fines©2006. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net#720804

We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

Our Community at Prayer

Please respond with “**we are stronger**” when I pray the word “**Together**”)

Invitation to Generosity & Blessing of Our Gifts

(Gifts brought forward during singing)

Sung Dedication MV#191 What Can I Do

Words&Music: Paul Rumbolt & Michele McCarthy©2005

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M&S Story

The Work of the Congregation – Announcements

We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

***Song** (*standing*) VU#307 Touch the Earth Lightly (vs. 1,2,4)

Words: Shirley E Murray Music: Colin Gibson©1992 Hope Publishing Company.

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Blessing & Changing of the Light

Postlude Music for the Journey

Thank You for Joining Us!

May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.