

Plymouth
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



Image by Greg Rakozy on Unsplash

April 21, 2024

Earth Sunday

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No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

April 21, 2024 • Earth Sunday • 10 a.m.

**An asterisk invites you to stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*

Prelude

Special Music: "For the Beauty of the Earth" Mary Drysdale, tongue drum

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Charles

- Bible Study: Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.—Fireside Room
- Summer camp dates: You & Me: July 5-8, Youth Adventures: July 9-15, Great Escapes: August 25-30. Registration is now open!

Prayer of Illumination

Let There be Light

adapted from Genesis 1:1-5

Pastor Charles & Pat Christian

“In the beginning the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep. God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.

(And, God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Invitation to Worship

adapted from Psalm 19

Michael Blanchard

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

All: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

One: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard.

All: Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of world.

Calling of the Waters *adapted from Genesis 1:6-8*

Dick Weaver & Gus Byrom

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters under the dome from the waters above the dome.

And, it was so.

God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

***Gathering Hymn** *"For Beauty of Meadows"* (Insert)

Tune: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Forming of the Earth *adapted from Genesis 1:9-13*

Gail Tronstad, Robie Culver, Mary Drysdale, & Kathe Simons

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so.

God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together God called the Sea. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let plants grow upon the earth: plants with seeds, and all kinds of fruit. And, plants grew upon the earth: plants with seeds, and all kinds of fruit.

Sun, Moon, and Stars *adapted from Genesis 1:14-19*

Al Simons & Brenda Senne

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.'

And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

***Congregational Response** *"God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty"* (Insert)

Creatures of the Earth *adapted from Genesis 1:20-25*

Jeanne Wolf & Pam Rolfes

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.'

So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature in the sea, and every winged bird. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

Musical Interlude *"All Things Bright and Beautiful"* - Rutter

Plymouth Choir

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind. And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and God saw that it was good.

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, and over all the wild animals of the earth.

So, God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God, God created them; male and female, God created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply. 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed and every kind of fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that had been made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Pastoral Reflection

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the People

Pastor Charles

Creator of the earth and all living things, maker of the sky and the air and the breath of life, God of all that is: we are your servant people, created out of the clay of the earth itself. We forget that we are your creatures, and we play at being gods. We neglect the work of stewardship that you have provided for our occupation and our joy. We have used, abused, and

We have used, abused, and abandoned those things that you have created for your delight.

You have created a fragile world in a perfect and delicate balance. Thinking too much of our own importance, we have upset that balance. We ask your forgiveness, Holy and Righteous One. We yearn to join with the mountains and valleys, the rocks and the birds of the wild ocean waters in singing your praises.

Mother and Father of us all, we ask that you be with all of those for whom no one ever prays. We lift up those who are in recovery, those who are experiencing war, those who are experiencing hunger and cold. We lift up those who have been displaced from their homes, those who are lonely or scared, and our unsheltered neighbors. We lift up those who are experiencing hardship or difficulty of any kind, those who are undergoing medical treatment, those who are sick or suffering. We lift up the bereaved, and those who feel an emptiness in their lives. Be with us, God, in our joys and our sorrows.

The Lord's Prayer

O Great Spirit, Creator of the universe,
You are our Shepherd Chief in the most-high place.
Whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon.
Whatever you want done, let it, also be done everywhere.
Give us your gift of bread day by day.
Forgive us our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us.
Take us away from wrong doings.
Free us from all evil.
For everything belongs to you.
Let your power and glory shine forever.
Amen. ~ Hattie Corbett Enos, of the Nez Perce tribe

Tithes and Offerings

If you would like to participate in the ritual of offering electronically, you may do with this QR code.



*Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessing flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

***Departing Hymn** *“Creative God, You Spread the Earth”* (insert)

Tune: “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

***Charge & Benediction** *adapted from Genesis 2:1-3* Pastor Charles

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because that was the day that God rested from all the work that had been done in creation.

So go, and remember that you are a part of God’s creation, and that God’s creation desperately needs your help. Be the life and breath of God. Be the light and the shadow, and help our world to find peace. Help our world to find rest.

And now, may our Creator God instill within you a spirit of creativity. May Jesus the Christ live inside of you, and help you to remember to love and forgive others, as well as yourself. And, may the Holy Spirit always be with you, on this journey that we call life, so that you will never be alone. Go in peace. Amen.

***Congregational Blessing** “Go Out Now in Peace”

212 (Sing!)

Postlude



*Plymouth's Mission is to nurture our congregation and the wider community
with acts of love and a vision of God's image in all things.*

— TODAY'S MINISTERS —

The People of Plymouth Congregational Church, assisted by

Rev. Charles Wei—Pastor

Pat Christian, Michael Blanchard, Dick Weaver, Gus Byrom, Gail Tronstad, Robie Culver,

Mary Drysdale, Al & Kathe Simons, Jeanne Wolf, Pam Rolfes—Liturgists

Dr. Steve and Nancy Michelson, Mary Drysdale (tongue drum), Plymouth Choir—Music

Carol McKerrow—Liturgical Art

—ANNOUNCEMENTS —

Sign-up sheets for liturgists—in the narthex.

Welcome Visitors and Prayer Card in your pew rack. We are delighted to have you worshipping with us today. Please let us know your prayer requests and anything else you'd like to share. Place your card in the offering plate.

Just Coffee! Contact Gus Byrom or Dick Mayer to buy your coffee and help support ministry (\$12/lb).

OS&J meeting TODAY: after worship service. Val Hellermann will be attending for a discussion on the current Middle East situation (factual history/background).

YOU'RE INVITED!

Bible Study: Tuesday, April 23 at 9:00 a.m.—Fireside Room. Led by Kathe Simons.

Women's Fellowship Luncheon: Meets Tuesday, April 23 at 11:30 a.m.—Overland Express Restaurant.

Summer Camps: You & Me: July 5-8; Youth Adventures: July 8-15; Great Escapes: **August 25-30. Registration is now open!**

Mogi Agha, Iranian-American, Muslim non-violent peace advocate will be speaking at our public library the evening of May 1. <https://juustwa.org/speakers-and-presenters/brother-moji-agma/> for more information.

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Pastor Charles' e-mail—pastorplymouthmt@gmail.com

Pastor Office Hours—Tuesdays and Thursdays—9am to 4pm