



The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme
2 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, Connecticut
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SUNDAY WORSHIP

Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister
Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, Senior Associate Minister
Carleen R. Gerber, Associate Minister
Simon D. Holt, Director of Music

April 24, 2022

EARTH DAY

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: *All things bright and beautiful*

John Rutter

*Processional Hymn: #204 “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain ”

*Call to Worship:

Blessed are the heavens,
for they declare the power of creation.
**Blessed is the earth, our beloved home,
for she is a planet of plenitude.**

Blessed are the waters thereon,
for they gave rise to living things.

**Blessed is the land,
for it is the source of life abundant.**

Blessed is the air we breathe,
for it fires us to life and love.

**Blessed are the beasts of the field,
for they are glorious to behold.**

Blessed are they who protect the earth and all her creatures,
for their reward shall be harmony with the web of existence.

**Rejoice, and be glad,
for the earth and all that is in it.**

Let us worship God.

*Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #55 “O God, Our God, in All the Earth”

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: *Praise ye the Father!*

Charles Gounod

*Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

*Offertory Prayer

Children's Message

Hymn: #364 "This Little Light of Mine"

(First verse only, as children leave. Congregation remains seated.)

*A Litany for Earth Day

Scripture Lessons: Numbers 13 (selected verses)

Sermon: **To Ourselves We Seemed Like Grasshoppers: Why the Stories We Tell Matter**

Rev. Dr. Steve R. Jungkeit

*Hymn: #54 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Benediction

Benediction Response: *Set me as a seal*

Dale Grotenhuis

Postlude

**Congregation Standing*

We thank you for worshipping with us. Following the life and teachings of Jesus, we are a church that strives to be a place of grace, welcoming all regardless of theological expression, age, race, gender, sexual identity, national origin or financial means. In our Church Constitution we recognize that "each member shall have the undisturbed right to follow the word of God according to the dictates of his or her own conscience, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit." The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, established in 1665, cherishes this proud Pilgrim tradition. We are honored by your presence among us, and we invite you to help us become what we endeavor to be.

A Sacred Litany for Earth Day
(Haudenosaunee Prayer of Thanksgiving)
as recounted in *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by *Robin Wall Kimmerer*

The People

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people.

Now our minds are one.

The Earth Mother

We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our mother, we send greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.

The Waters

We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms-waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water.

Now our minds are one.

The Fish

We turn our minds to all the Fish life in the water. They were instructed to cleanse and purify the water. They also give themselves to us as food. We are grateful that we can still find pure water. So, we turn now to the Fish and send our greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.

The Plants

Now we turn toward the vast fields of Plant life. As far as the eye can see, the Plants grow, working many wonders. They sustain many life forms. With our minds gathered together, we give thanks and look forward to seeing Plant life for many generations to come.

Now our minds are one.

The Food Plants

With one mind, we turn to honor and thank all the Food Plants we harvest from the garden. Since the beginning of time, the grains, vegetables, beans and berries have helped the people survive. Many other living things draw strength from them too. We gather all the Plant Foods together as one and send them a greeting of thanks.

Now our minds are one.

The Medicine Herbs

Now we turn to all the Medicine herbs of the world. From the beginning they were instructed to take away sickness. They are always waiting and ready to heal us. We are happy there are still among us those special few who remember how to use these plants for healing. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the Medicines and to the keepers of the Medicines.

Now our minds are one.

The Animals

We gather our minds together to send greetings and thanks to all the Animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as people. We are honored by them when they give up their lives so we may use their bodies as food for our people. We see them near our homes and in the deep forests. We are glad they are still here and we hope that it will always be so.

Now our minds are one.

The Trees

We now turn our thoughts to the Trees. The Earth has many families of Trees who have their own instructions and uses. Some provide us with shelter and shade, others with fruit, beauty and other useful things. Many people of the world use a Tree as a symbol of peace and strength. With one mind, we greet and thank the Tree life.

Now our minds are one.

The Birds

We put our minds together as one and thank all the Birds who move and fly about over our heads. The Creator gave them beautiful songs. Each day they remind us to enjoy and appreciate life. The Eagle was chosen to be their leader. To all the Birds-from the smallest to the largest-we send our joyful greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.

The Four Winds

We are all thankful to the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help us to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind, we send our greetings and thanks to the Four Winds.

Now our minds are one.

The Sun

We now send greetings and thanks to our eldest Brother, the Sun. Each day without fail he travels the sky from east to west, bringing the light of a new day. He is the source of all the fires of life. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Brother, the Sun.

Now our minds are one.

Grandmother Moon

We put our minds together to give thanks to our oldest Grandmother, the Moon, who lights the night-time sky. She is the leader of women all over the world, and she governs the movement of the ocean tides. By her changing face we measure time, and it is the Moon who watches over the arrival of children here on Earth. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Grandmother, the Moon.

Now our minds are one.

The Stars

We give thanks to the Stars who are spread across the sky like jewelry. We see them in the night, helping the Moon to light the darkness and bringing dew to the gardens and growing things. When we travel at night, they guide us home. With our minds gathered together as one, we send greetings and thanks to the Stars.

Now our minds are one.

The Enlightened Teachers

We gather our minds to greet and thank the enlightened Teachers who have come to help throughout the ages. When we forget how to live in harmony, they remind us of the way we were instructed to live as people. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to these caring teachers.

Now our minds are one.

The Creator

Now we turn our thoughts to the creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on this Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

Now our minds are one.

Closing Words

We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it was not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.

Now our minds are one.

Scripture Lessons

Numbers 13 (selected verses)

The Lord said to Moses, "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites; from each of their ancestral tribes you shall send a man, every one a leader among them."

Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, "Go up there into the Negeb, and go up into the hill country, and see what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, and whether the land they live in is good or bad, and whether the towns that they live in are unwalled or fortified, and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be bold, and bring some of the fruit of the land." Now it was the season of the first ripe grapes.

At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the Israelites in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land.

Then the men who had gone up said, "We are not able to go up against this people, for they are stronger than we." So they brought to the Israelites an unfavorable report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land that we have gone through as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are of great size. There we saw the Nephilim (the Anakites come from the Nephilim); and to ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."

The host for Fellowship hour today is Barbara Macgregor.

White Elephant Sale Get out your calendars out and mark these dates – Friday, July 8th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm and Saturday, July 9th from 8:00 am - Noon. This is a good time of the year to sort through the cellar and attic to put aside some of those treasures for this year's sale. Hold those goodies until intake starts, Thursday June 23rd.

Help wanted

- Children's clothes - need 2 co-chairs and others to sort and price.
- Small Furniture [tools, outdoor furniture, guy stuff] - needs workers - to sort & price Thursday 7/7 - then sell
- Large Furniture - co chair also folks to price and sell
- Parking - big crew needed to manage two parking lots both days - call the office or Sean at 860-215-1740
- Package check - good job for some parents to oversee kids checking and retrieving purchased items during sale
- Worker refreshment - good job for some parents to oversee kids, cold drinks to dept workers during sale days
- Intake needs a daily staff of 6-8 folks to unload cars and sort donations 6/23 to 6/30 from 9-2 pm [not 6/26-27] Please call the office 434-8686 and volunteer - it will help us to ensure daily staffing needs. All are welcome for as long as you can stay, even if you just drop in and help. Great way to meet folks and see what the WES is all about. Thank you in advance.

Ladies Who Stitch Winter Sale! Over 100 of our creations are on sale in the Partnership Store - open every Sunday following the service and on Mondays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

New London Homeless Hospitality Center is looking for a vehicle donation for our medical respite program. This car will be used to assist homeless people, recently discharged from inpatient hospital care, to get to follow-up Doctor's appointments, pharmacy for medications or help with their housing search. It can be any type of car but should be in good working order. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Relief Help for Ukraine. At this point, our church has released \$15,000 to International Rescue Committee (IRC) for relief in Ukraine. IRC is working with local partners in Ukraine and Poland to support the evacuation of women and children and to provide food, blankets, warm clothes and cash assistance to people who have been forced to flee their homes. The church will continue to receive donations if you would still like to give. Please note "Ukraine Aid" in the memo line.

Calendar of Events and Meetings for This Week

LWS Monday, April 25 at 10:00 am in Sheffield Auditorium.

Deacons Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Senior Choir Wednesday, April 26 at 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study Thursday, April 28 at 11:00 am on Zoom.

Pottery Open House Sunday, May 1 at 11:30 am in Walt's Studio.