

Church of Christ, Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Our Mission

We seek to be a Christian community
by worshiping God through prayer, music, and the proclaimed Word.

Following Christ's example,
we enthusiastically reach out to everyone with compassion, respect and love
so that we may grow in faith and commitment together.



April 21, 2024

Pastor James Admans, M.Div.
Rebecca Abalutzk, Music Director
Laura Kohring, Administrative Assistant

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***Worship God, Serve our neighbors, Share God's
love***

Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 10:00am
Earth Day Sunday

*Indicates standing if you are able
B = Black Hymnal R=Red Hymnal

Prelude *Sunshine on my Shoulder*

by John Denver

Welcome/Announcements

Gathering Music: *Christ, the Vine and God, the Gardner*

***Call To Worship**

One: People of God, Stewards of the Earth, let us heed the call of the majestic mountains and the boundless skies, the guardians of our survival.

All: Our lifeblood is drawn from the Earth, the Architect of the cosmos, who paints the dawn and drapes the fields in magnificence.

One: Like trees planted by streams of water, yielding fruit in their season, so are we invited to partake in Earth's generous offerings.

All: Rooted deeply in the fabric of creation, we learn from the Earth's wisdom, growing in insight and reaching for the light.

***Opening Prayer (together)**

Loving God, as You called Adam from the earth's dust and breathed life into him, remind us that we are not merely inhabitants but devoted caretakers of Your magnificent creation. Amidst the hustle of our lives, help us pause, breathe, and see Your divine essence in nature---from the daffodils of spring to the red maples of autumn, the serene marshes, and ancient forests. In the faces of river otters, chipmunks, and wild turkeys, we see the intricate web of life You've woven, connecting us all. Our hearts weigh heavy with our planet's exploitation, and we seek Your guidance to respect and honor this gift of creation, to live in balance with the earth. May our prayer today be an action, a

commitment to protect, cherish, and celebrate the creation in everything, leading us to a future where harmony with nature and reverence for life define our existence. AMEN.

***Hymn B#28** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Children's Moment

Passing the Peace of Christ

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Earth Day Reflection

Sue Conte

Scripture Reading Revelation 12:1-19

Sermon Don't Mess with Mother Earth!

Music for Meditation Rebecca Abalutzk

The Church at Prayer

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Our Personal Prayers in Silence

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (please use the wording with which you are most familiar.)

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

Prayer Response *In The Lord I'll be Ever Thankful*

A Time of Offering

Invitation

Offertory Anthem *What a Wonderful World* by Weiss & Thiele
Arr. Brymer

***Doxology** “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

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

***Prayer of Dedication** (together)

Gracious Creator, as we gather the fruits of our labor and dedication, we lay them before You, a humble offering to honor Your creation. May these gifts, small tokens of our vast gratitude, serve as seeds of hope and renewal for our planet. In this act of giving, we reaffirm our commitment to be stewards of the earth, to nurture its lands, protect its creatures, and cherish its resources. Guide us to use these offerings wisely, investing in the future of our planet, ensuring that the beauty and diversity of Your creation flourish for generations to come. In this moment of dedication, we pray for the wisdom and strength to act as caretakers of the earth, recognizing our shared responsibility in its preservation. AMEN.

***Hymn B#31** *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

***Benediction**

Postlude: *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*

By Harold Arlen

Please stay for fellowship following the service.

CCLI # 1300459

***For your convenience, you can now make
donations and pay your pledge on-line.
Just scan this Giving QR code.***



**Have a prayer request?
Please contact Mary Jensen to add it to the
prayer chain at mejensen7@verizon.net**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

M&M's (Monday Morning Needlework Group)

Join us from 10am-12pm in the parlor. Bring your handwork or just come to socialize, we'd love to see you there!

Pastoral Emergencies

If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor James via
phone

Call or text (774)-993-9407

Hybrid Bible Study

Women of the Bible Series

***Bible Study will not meet this Wednesday (4/24) while James is away**

All are welcome to join us for a Hybrid Bible Study with Pastor James. You may attend in-person in the Parlor or via Zoom. We will gather to read scripture and talk about our faith in today's world.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 21

9:00am ~ Choir Practice
10:00 am ~ Worship & Communion
11:00 am~ Refreshments

Monday, April 22 ~ M& M's

10:00am-12:00pm in the Parlor
*5:00pm-6:00pm ~ Earth Day PlantWave Meditation (Parlor)
* POSTPONED TO APRIL 29

Thursday April 25 ~ Union Theological Seminary Drag Chapel Service

12:00-12:30pm Facebook livestream ([facebook.com/UTSChapel](https://www.facebook.com/UTSChapel))
James leads Drag chapel service. All are welcome to watch!

Thursday April 25 ~ Church Council Meeting

7:00pm on Zoom

Sunday, April 28

9:00am ~ Choir Practice
10:00am ~ Worship Service
11:00am ~ Refreshments