

Welcome to Worship!

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Earth Day

April 22, 2018



“Cheap Convenience”

*“All creation is a song of praise to God.”
(Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic)*



First United Methodist Church

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Helping People 'Say Yes' to God

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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Welcome to worship at First UMC Baraboo. Our mission is 'Helping people 'Say Yes' to God. "Do no harm, do all the good you can and stay in love with God" are the three simple rules we seek to live by. As you wait for worship to begin, please sign the pew pad register. If you are a first time guest, please fill out a visitor card found in the pew racks. Children are always welcome in worship; 'busy bags' are available just outside the door to fellowship hall. Our staffed nursery is available for children infants thru age five.

Prelude

"Maker of Earth & Heaven" (Warriner)

"Welcome, Happy Morning!" (Rob Roy Perry)

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Call to Worship

We gather on the threshold of a new growing season!

The warming of the soil awakens new life from the earth!

Enter into the joy of new life with worship and praise!

Let us worship in faith and renewed energy!

†Hymn

"Praise the Source of Faith and Learning"

The Faith We Sing #2004

†Sharing the Peace of Christ

Children's Message

Special Music

"Hymn of Promise"

(Natalie Sleeth arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson)

The Bell Choir

Prayer before the Scriptures are Read (unison)

El Shaddai, All Sufficient One, Nurture, Source of our being,

prepare us for the hearing of your holy word. We need you in this

moment to help us hear with ears that acknowledge your

presence among us. We confess our preference for convenience.

Help us to assess our covenant relationship with you as we give

thanks for the earth you provide for all to live. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 104:24-35

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn (remain seated)

“Water, Spirit, River, Grace”
The Faith We Sing #2253

Sermon

“Cheap Convenience”

Offering

“Etz Chayim” (Max arr. by Deanna Horjus-Lang)
The Bell Choir

Translation: *A tree of life to those who hold fast to it,
and all who cling to it find happiness.
Its ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all its paths are peace.*

†Offering Response

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
The U.M. Hymnal #94

†Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, you provide the sun for our energy resources, the earth for our material resources, and the Spirit to guide us on the path of responsible stewardship. We pray that this offering will address the brokenness we have brought into creation and ask for your blessing as we dedicate our resources to your will. Amen.

Prayer Litany for Earth Day

Left: "The Earth. . . is a sparkling blue and white jewel. . . laced with slowly swirling veils of white. . . like a small pearl in a thick sea of black mystery." (*Edgar Mitchell, US Astronaut*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Right: "O moving force of Wisdom, you encircle the wheel of the cosmos, you encompass all that is, all that has life, in one vast circle." (*Hildegard of Bingen*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Left: "It could be that god has not absconded but spread, as our vision and understanding of the universe have spread, to a fabric of spirit and sense so grand and subtle, powerful in a new way, that we can only feel blindly of its hem." (*Annie Dillard, naturalist writer*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Right: ". . . stardust is not just fairy-tale magic; it is what we are really made of. . ." (*Elisabet Sahtouris, Ecofeminist*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Left: "Great Spirit, ...give me the strength to walk the soft earth, a relative to all that is! ... all over the earth the faces of living things are all alike ... This is my prayer; hear me!" (*Black Elk, Oglala Sioux*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Right: "There is not anything new to be born. It has been within you from the beginningless beginning. It has only to be awakened, to become aware of itself in you." (*Zen saying*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Left: "... for in God we live/ and move/ and have our being." (*Acts 17:28*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Right: "... When you stand in the presence of the moon, you become a new creation... The elementary particles of your body have absorbed an influence and in that sense they--and you--are brand spanking new, a human being resonating everywhere with moonlight." (*Brian Swimme, physicist*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Left: "We shall not cease from exploration/ And the end of all our exploring/ Will be to arrive where we started/ And know the place for the first time." (*T. S. Eliot, poet*)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

Mission Moment

Kim Shrake, *Camping Coordinator*

Joys and Concerns

After you share a joy or concern, you are invited to add

"God of healing" or "God of celebration" or use other appropriate wording and then the congregation will respond, "Hear our prayer!"

Spoken Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

The U.M. Hymnal #895

Announcements

†Hymn

"You Are the Seed"

The U.M. Hymnal #583

†Closing Words

It's a new growing season! **Seeds have been planted!**

Go and serve the Lord. **Amen.**

†Postlude

† = *Please rise if you are able*

SERVING YOU TODAY...

Guest Pastor..... Bill Dow
LiturgistChris Kuter
Church Opener *TBD*
Greeter(s)..... Gladys Orton
UshersKandie Beckwith & Rajean Bender
A/V Powerpoint & Booth Mike Hanson & Michael Lutz
Bell Choir DirectorDeanna Horjus-Lang
Worship MusicAimee Lutz

Thank you to The Bell Choir for providing special music!