

# Union Congregational United Church of Christ



At Union, we are all the body of Christ together:  
Through our voices, Christ is still speaking  
Through our hands, Christ is still serving  
Through our hearts, Christ is still loving



April 28, 2024

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Our sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. You can access the loop by activating the T-coil in your hearing aid. If you do not have a T-coil, you can request a portable receiver from an usher.

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# Welcome to Union Church!

- Today's service is being live streamed via Facebook and YouTube.
- During the Children's Moments, the live stream will display a graphic, in order to protect our children's privacy.
- Please see an usher if you would like a children's activity packet or if you need help finding the nursery.
- Visitors are encouraged to fill out a visitor card at the usher's station or email [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com) to receive our weekly email newsletter.
- Visitors, if you would like more information about our church, please take home a yellow "Welcome to Union Church" folder located at either sanctuary door. If you have trouble finding them, ask one of our friendly members to help you locate one!
- We continue to encourage those who are COVID positive or have cold or flu symptoms to worship from home and to consult with your healthcare provider to make sure you are engaging in best practices regarding masking, distancing, and receiving vaccines/boosters, particularly if you or someone you live with have health concerns

## Blessing Box Food Drive Sunday, May 5


**Thank you for your continuing support of the Blessing Box ministry!**

**Current needs include:**

- Canned Chili or Pasta Meals
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Canned Vegetables
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper

Donations can be placed on the cart at the front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 5, or on the blue table inside the Mayflower entrance at any time.

**Monetary donations are also welcome, and we'll do the shopping!** To make a monetary donation, send a check with "Blessing Box" on the memo line, or donate via the church website at [www.unionucc.com/giving](http://www.unionucc.com/giving).



*Serving Christ . . . Loving Each . . . Affirming All*

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

10:00 a.m.

### GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(\*) invites all who are able to stand

#### PRELUDE:

*"Andante Commodo, K. 380"*

D. Scarlatti

*"Brightonshire Hornpipe"*

Jim Engebretson

Saxophone Trio

With music and silence we begin worship, praying quietly and opening our hearts to God.

#### THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

Welcome! Please share Announcements, Ministry Opportunities, Joys and Concerns.

### PRAISING OUR GOD

#### THE BOND OF UNION (in unison)

***Giving our all as we have been given all...***

**We accept the religion of love and service which Jesus lived and taught, and declare it our purpose to strive to do the will of God, and to make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations.**

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

Leader: For earth's cycles and seasons

**All: for the rising of spring and the growing of summer,**

Leader: for autumn's fullness and the hidden depths of winter.

**All: Thanks be to you, O Christ.**

Leader: For the life force of seeds buried in the ground that shoot green and bear fruit and fall to the earth,

**All: Thanks be to you, O Spirit.**

Leader: For the earth who models birth and rebirth, death and dying with natural beauty,

**All: Thanks be to you, O God.**

Leader: Let us learn from earth's cycles of birthing and the times and seasons of dying.

**All: Let us learn of you in the soil of our souls, O Christ, of your journey through death to birth.**

Leader: Let us learn of you in our soul this morning and in the ancient journey of letting go.

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

Leader: Heavenly Creator, we confess that when we first heard about ecological unraveling, we didn't believe it.

**All: Because if there really was an existential crisis like that, how could we not see it?**

Leader: We have not listened closely enough to the Earth that you made, the skies you formed, and the seas you filled.

**All: As a result, people are suffering. People are dying.**

Leader: Though ecosystems collapse, our focus remains on comfort, economic growth, and ourselves.

**All: The eyes of all future generations are upon us.**

Leader: We stand now at a crossroads. We must now decide which path we want to take.

**All: How do we want the future for all living species to be?**

Leader: May this be the year, dear God, that you wake us up.

**All: We confess our resistance while we also desire to act.**

Leader: For once we start to act, we will find hope everywhere.

**All: Forgive us, and lead us into love and action.**

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (in unison)

**May the steps we take become prayer.**

**May the words we say make harmony with the vast, vibrating cosmos.**

**May we join with Christ in singing the songs of peace and life.**

\* PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

\* HYMN NO. 28:

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*  
(see page 5)

DIX  
The New Century Hymnal

**PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS**

CONTINUING TESTAMENT:

*"Remember"*

by Joy Harjo

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Children are invited to gather on the chancel steps and bring their offering.

Following Children's Moments, all children are welcome to remain in worship.

Additionally, parents are welcome to accompany their children to our "playground" in the south transept to play and pray quietly or to drop them off downstairs to play in the nursery with our paid nursery staff. Activity bags with crayons, etc. are available from an usher.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM: "Grazioso" Arnold Sherman

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 19 p. 498

THE SERMON: "Speak with the Earth" Rev. Daniel Cooperrider

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN NO. 563: "We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky" ENDLESS SONG  
(see page 6) The New Century Hymnal

### THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please join us in praying the Lord's Prayer in these words or a translation meaningful to you.

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### THE OFFERING

Offertory: "Single Petal of a Rose" Duke Ellington

\*Praise Response: "Halleluja" HALLELUJA

*Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja.*

*Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja.*

*Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja.*

*Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja.*

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**God of all creation, as we dedicate these offerings, help us to remember  
faith is marked not only in how we talk but in how we walk.**

**When we say we love animals, let us protect them.**

**When we say that we love the plants, let us honor them by living lightly on the earth.**

**When we say we love the minerals, let us use them only in necessity, and remember  
their rightful places.**

**In the name of Jesus, our brother,**

**who used water, wine, and wheat to teach us your ways. Amen.**

## SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

\*HYMN NO. 31:

*"All Things Bright and Beautiful"*  
(see page 7)

ROYAL OAK  
The New Century Hymnal

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

*"Fugue in C-Sharp Major, BWV 848"*

J. S. Bach

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Joann Broskey**, and **Megan Gleason** who offered our Children's Moments.

Saxophone Trio = **Sam Stranz** (Alto I), **Charlie Reese** (Alto II), **Reese Harkoff** (Tenor)

A special thank you to our guest preacher, **the Rev. Daniel Cooperrider**.

Today's Call to Worship is adapted from J Philip Newell's Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night.  
Our Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon are inspired by Greta Thunberg.  
Our Prayer of Dedication is adapted from Rev. Dr. Vern Barnett's "Earth Day Prayer."

### Join Union's AV Team

Our AV team needs folks who are tech-minded and looking to volunteer for Union in a fun way. Duties include operating the video broadcast board during Sunday service and coordinating the livestream to Facebook and YouTube. (This is a lot easier than it sounds, I promise.) Rotation is generally one Sunday a month.

Please reach out to Eric Harkoff at [eharkoff@yahoo.com](mailto:eharkoff@yahoo.com) if you're interested. Thank you!

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain  
 Conrad Kocher, 1838  
 Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

# For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, Foliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.  
 St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,

For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
 For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

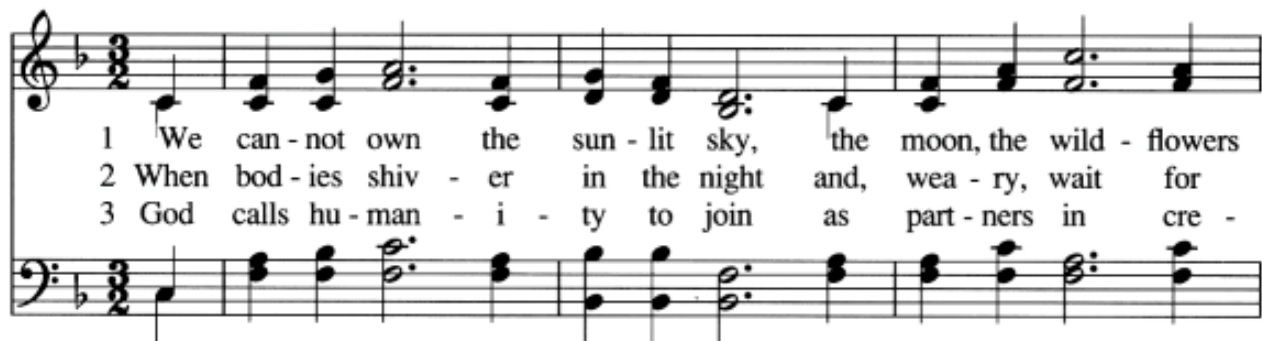
*Refrain*

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

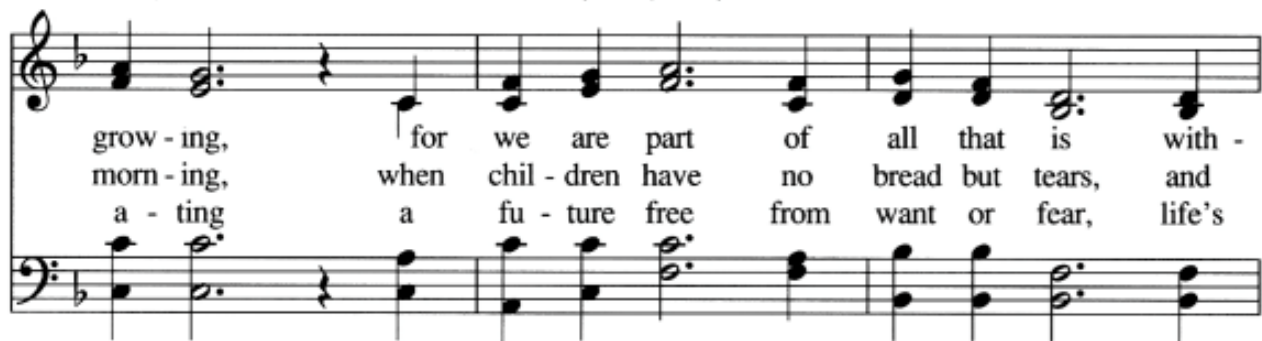
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## We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989 Words Copyright © 1983, rev. 1992 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.



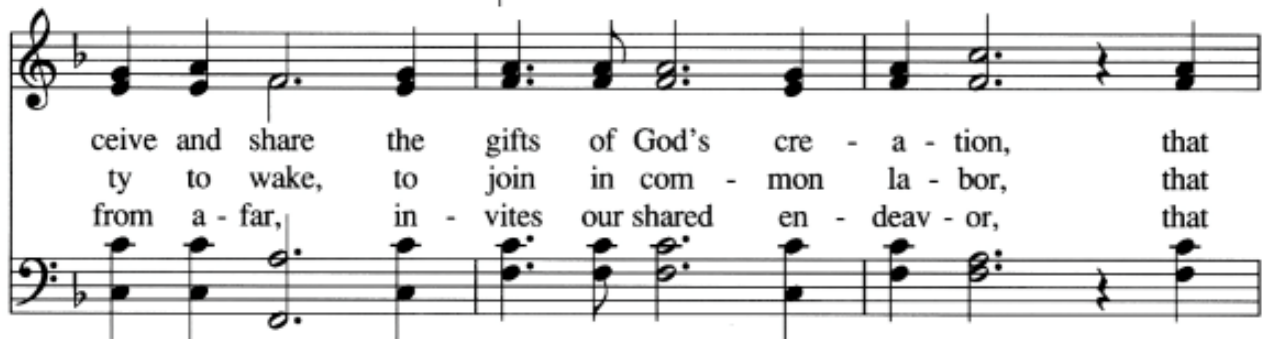
1 We can-not own the sun-lit sky, the moon, the wild-flowers  
2 When bod-ies shiv-er in the night and, wea-ry, wait for  
3 God calls hu-man-i-ty to join as part-ners in cre-



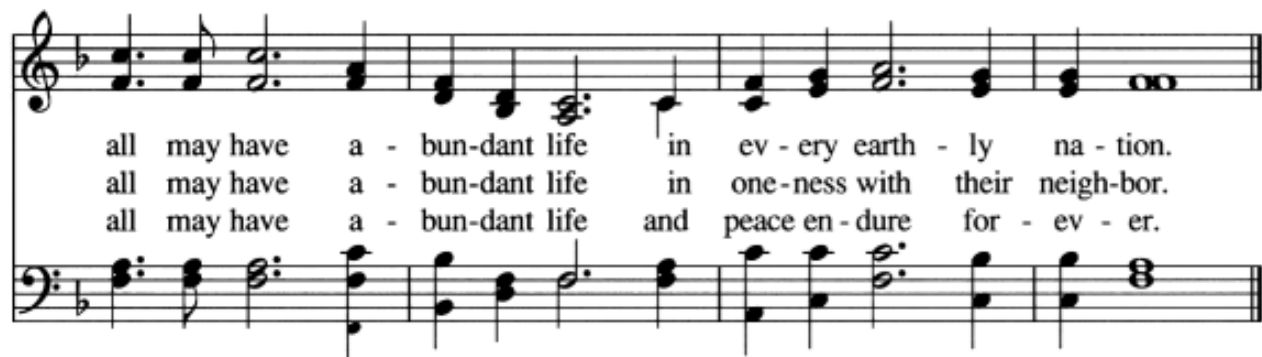
grow-ing, for we are part of all that is with-  
morn-ing, when chil-dren have no bread but tears, and  
a-ting a fu-ture free from want or fear, life's



in life's riv-er flow-ing. With o-pen hands re-  
war-horns sound their warn-ing, God calls hu-man-i-  
good-ness cel-e-brat-ing. That new world beck-ons



ceive and share the gifts of God's cre-a-tion, that  
ty to wake, to join in com-mon la-bor, that  
from a-far, in-vites our shared en-deav-or, that



all may have a-bun-dant life in ev-ery earth-ly na-tion.  
all may have a-bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.  
all may have a-bun-dant life and peace en-dure for-ev-er.



# All Things Bright and Beautiful

31

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain  
Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt. English melody  
Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915

*Unison  
Refrain*

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

*Last time, end*

All things wise and won - der - ful, our dear God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,  
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum - mer sun,

*to Refrain*

God made their glow-ing col - ors, and made their ti - ny wings.  
The sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.  
The ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.

## Tour of Sanctuary Symbolism

Have you ever wondered why we have a pelican in our stained-glass window of love? Did you ever wonder why there is an eagle on our lectern?

On May 19 following worship, you can find out those answers and more. We will gather 15 minutes after our worship service in the first two pews in the Sanctuary. You will have a chance to walk through the chancel, the nave, the narthex and the balcony and discover the symbols and learn their meanings. The entire tour should take about 45 minutes.

No need to sign up; just come and enjoy the tour. If you are like most people, you are wondering where the nave is and why it is called the nave. Join us on May 19 to find out!

## Sojourner Circle

Union has a new group! Sojourner Circle is a group of women supporting each other's navigations through career decisions, raising children, personal growth, mid-life reflections, and more. The group meets from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month; coming together for friendship, faith, inspiration, and group volunteer opportunities. The first Thursday is usually a gathering at a member's home, and the third Thursday is generally an activity or restaurant meal out in the Green Bay area.

Adventures have included a game night, dinner out, trivia night, serving dinner at NEW Community shelter, a painting class, making cards for a nursing home, and book discussions.

Contact Emily Lakatos at [emilyclakatos@gmail.com](mailto:emilyclakatos@gmail.com) for more info and to be added to the Facebook group. All those who identify as women are welcome.

## May Sunday Adult Education

Gather in Bagby Chapel at 9 a.m. for these informative and inspiring conversations:

### **May 5—Students of Black Theology**

Over the past semester, five St. Norbert College students in Dr. Craig Ford's Black Theology class have been learning about Union's history around racial justice. These students will share some of their learnings as well as how Union might continue its anti-racism journey.

### **May 19—Garden Tour**

Gather with Cathy Putman to tour the church grounds and learn about what she describes in her article in the April issue of *Still Speaking*.

## Union's Used Book Sale is May 5 and May 12

Bring your donations to the church library by Tuesday, April 30.

## Our Housing Offering is May 12

Our congregation is generous. We will extend that generosity through our Housing Offering on May 12. This offering supports the work of the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH).

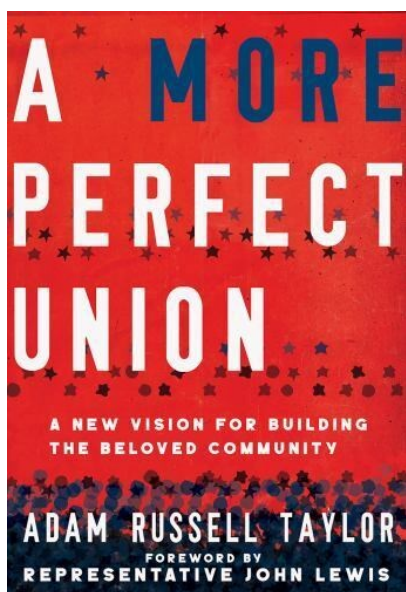
EPH brings together diverse congregations to partner in ways that provide some people who are housing insecure in Green Bay with solid, decent housing, along with the opportunity to gain skills to thrive. Jubilee House, in Union's backyard, is part of EPH and it is Union's responsibility to maintain this property.

As we continue our Easter celebration of new life, let's continue Union's legacy of generosity through this special offering.

## Union's Rummage Sale is May 18

Have you found items to donate to the rummage sale? Folks will be at church to help with items on Saturday, May 11 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.). The sale is a week later on Saturday, May 18 (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.). Your donations and the sale will feed hundreds of people at NEW Community Shelter. This is our only fund raiser for this charity so we need everyone's help. Thank you.

Questions? Call Achim Seifert at 708-822-8998 or email him at [seif904@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seif904@sbcglobal.net).



## JOSHUA Big Read of *A More Perfect Union*

The JOSHUA Spiritual Leaders invite you to a Big Read of  
*A More Perfect Union* by Adam Russell Taylor

All are invited to obtain a copy of *A More Perfect Union* and begin reading. The Big Read will then gather readers throughout the community in Zoom sessions as we discuss Section 1 on May 2 and Section 2 on May 30. We will culminate by finishing the book and Zooming with Rev. Taylor on June 20. All Zooms are at 7 p.m.

No need to register, simply join us for one or all sessions using the link in your This Week at Union Friday email.

# Weekly Planner

April 29 — May 4

## **Tuesday:**

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## **Wednesday:**

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group  
5:30 p.m. New Member Class  
5:45 p.m. Dinner  
6:15 p.m. Youth Group

## **Thursday:**

7:00 p.m. Big Read Zoom Session

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## **NEXT SUNDAY: May 5** **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
9:00 a.m. Adult Education:  
Students of Black Theology  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
with Holy Communion  
in the sanctuary  
followed by Coffee Hour  
in the church hall OR  
stream it online

Used Book Sale in the church hall

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## Union Congregational United Church of Christ

Union Congregational United Church of Christ is an **Open and Affirming Congregation**. We are a Christian fellowship where diverse perspectives may live together in the Spirit of Christ and where all persons are precious children of God without qualification or discrimination because of ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, or sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

e-mail: [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com)  
church office: 920-437-9266  
website: [www.unionucc.com](http://www.unionucc.com)

## Sunday Morning Childcare

We are seeking someone 18+ who is loving, energetic, patient, reliable, and good with kids to help staff our church nursery (2 to 3 hours, 2 to 3 Sundays per month). Compensation is competitive. If you know someone who might be interested, have them contact Pastor Bridget.

## Our Church Staff

Senior Minister .....Bridget Flad Daniels  
Administrative Assistant.....Eric Goska  
Financial Secretary.....Katrina Catteruccia  
Building & Maintenance Supervisor .....Brad Dorin  
Music Director .....Haley Steele  
Interim Pianist .....David Hassel  
Handbell Ensemble Director .....Linda Cook  
Youth Music Director .....Melissa Heffernan  
Librarian.....Cathy Putman  
AV Coordinator.....Eric Harkoff

### Nursery Attendants:

Jenna Stevens, London Graham, and Jenna Carrao