



Altar Design and Photo by Gail Niles

Order of Worship  
Season of Creation II  
Land Sunday

September 13, 2020

8:15 & 10:00 a.m.

Gathering of the Community

Welcome  
Service Introduction and Announcements  
Silent Prayer

Prelude "Thy Word Is Like a Garden, Lord"

Samuel Wellman

\*Call to Worship

We invite the land to worship with us:

**wildflowers and mysterious mushrooms, swirling grasses and goldenrods.**

We invite the farmlands to sing with us:

**wheat fields, orchards, and vineyards, hay fields, gardens, and wetlands.**

We join with all the fauna of the fields in praising God:

**horses, sheep, and cattle, grass snakes and grasshoppers, eagles and crows.**

We invite the ground to stir deep below:

**life-giving microbes restoring the soil, beetles and worms preparing our food.**

We celebrate the song of the soil!

**Sing soil, sing!**

1. Creator God, you made the earth,  
A gift beyond comparing!  
You called it good, you gave it worth,  
You placed it in our caring.

2. You gave your gift of Sabbath rest,  
Your pattern for creation.  
You give us times to heal, to bless,  
To join in celebration.

3. You give us Christ, who reconciled  
The things of earth and heaven.  
In him, you call each one your child!  
What wondrous love you've given!

4. Because we've turned away from you,  
This world still needs your healing.  
Creation longs to be made new  
Through Christ, your love revealing.

5. God, by your Spirit, may we be  
Communities of caring,  
That as we're healed, your world may see  
The hope that we are sharing.

\*Opening Prayer

**God, our Creator, whose glory fills all things, help us to discern your presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the soil, in the fields, and on the land. Help us to empathize with your creatures who are suffering and to serve you as agents for healing the land. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and restores all things in creation. Amen.**

\*Sharing the Peace of Christ

**Proclamation of the Word**

Children’s Hymn

“The Earth is the Lord’s”

St. Denio

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

May we be good stewards of all that you give,  
Protecting creation wherever we live.  
May we be a church that renews and restores  
And lovingly cares for this earth that is yours.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 4:1-16

CEB

The man Adam knew his wife Eve intimately. She became pregnant and gave birth to Cain, and said, “I have given life to a man with the Lord’s help.”<sup>2</sup> She gave birth a second time to Cain’s brother Abel. Abel cared for the flocks, and Cain farmed the fertile land.

<sup>3</sup> Some time later, Cain presented an offering to the Lord from the land’s crops<sup>4</sup> while Abel presented his flock’s oldest offspring with their fat. The Lord looked favorably on Abel and his sacrifice<sup>5</sup> but didn’t look favorably on Cain and his sacrifice. Cain became very angry and looked resentful.<sup>6</sup> The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why do you look so resentful?<sup>7</sup> If you do the right thing, won’t you be accepted? But if you don’t do the right thing, sin will be waiting at the door ready to strike! It will entice you, but you must rule over it.”

<sup>8</sup> Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” When they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

Cain said, “I don’t know. Am I my brother’s guardian?”

<sup>10</sup> The Lord said, “What did you do? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground. <sup>11</sup> You are now cursed from the ground that opened its mouth to take your brother’s blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you farm the fertile land, it will no longer grow anything for you, and you will become a roving nomad on the earth.”

<sup>13</sup> Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is more than I can bear. <sup>14</sup> Now that you’ve driven me away from the fertile land and I am hidden from your presence, I’m about to become a roving nomad on the earth, and anyone who finds me will kill me.”

<sup>15</sup> The Lord said to him, “It won’t happen; anyone who kills Cain will be paid back seven times.” The Lord put a sign on Cain so that no one who found him would assault him. <sup>16</sup> Cain left the Lord’s presence, and he settled down in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

\*Hymn #189

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

St. Elizabeth

1. Fairest Lord Jesus,  
ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God and man the Son,  
Thee will I cherish,  
Thee will I honor,  
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

2. Fair are the meadows,  
fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer  
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

3. Fair is the sunshine,  
fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heaven can boast.

4. Beautiful Savior!  
Lord of all the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine.

Sermon

“Grounded”

Rev. Marti Swords-Horrell

Invitation to Offering

September Jingle is for Habitat for Humanity

Prayer of Dedication

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our thanksgiving and as a sign of our concern for those in need, including all our fellow creatures on planet Earth.

**With all creation, we bless our Creator.**

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People Each prayer will end, “In your mercy;” please respond, “**Hear our prayer.**”

The Lord's Prayer: One thing we ask, God in Community, Holy in One, hear us as we pray, saying: ***“Our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, who art in heaven . . .”***

**Response to the Word**

\*Hymn #101

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

Duke Street

1. From all that dwell below the skies,  
let the Creator's praise arise;  
let the Redeemer's name be sung,  
through every land by every tongue.

2. Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;  
eternal truth attends thy word.  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
till suns shall rise and set no more.

3. Your lofty themes, ye mortals, bring,  
in songs of praise divinely sing;  
the great salvation loud proclaim,  
and shout for joy the Savior's name.

4. In every land begin the song;  
to every land the strains belong;  
in cheerful sounds all voices raise,  
and fill the world with loudest praise.

\*Commissioning

Christ calls you to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion, to serve Earth by caring for creation, honoring the land that God has made alive, so that we and all our kin may live.

**We follow our Lord, the crucified Christ, we will listen for cries of injustice from Earth, we will groan with a creation burdened by our sin.**

**We will follow our Lord, the risen Christ, we will be partners with Christ in healing our planet, we will join the Wounded Healer as he restores all things.**

**We will care for creation. We will nurture the forests. We will love our kin. We will celebrate life.**

\*The Good Word

May the God who is above and through all and in all fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth, the pulsing of Christ through Earth and the dream of the Spirit that all will be reconciled, renewed, and restored through Christ our wounded healer. Amen.

Postlude

“God of All Righteousness”

David Paxton

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*Text of Children's Hymn: Copyright © 2001 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.*

*[http://www.carolynshymns.com/lect\\_earthcare.html](http://www.carolynshymns.com/lect_earthcare.html)*

Due to the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases in the city, in-person worship has been postponed indefinitely. Our utmost concern is to reopen safely. The COVID Task Force, church staff, and Council members will continue to evaluate facts and make plans accordingly. Just keep repeating: “One day! One day we will meet again!”

***Thank you for your continued gifts and tithes to the church, as the expenses keep coming!***



**From the Green Team**

**Buy food locally**

With summer's bounty, buy food locally, perhaps at a farmers' market or at an actual farm. Not only will you have fresh food, you will also cut down on emissions from long-distance transportation.

**Are you ready to vote?** Joyce Miller has Otsego County Absentee Ballot Applications and is willing to deliver to whoever needs one. Call her at 607.432.8751. Or you can email her at millerumw@verizon.net. COVID 19 is a valid excuse for requesting an absentee ballot in NY State.

**The Upper Room:** It's time for the Sept-Oct issue of The Upper Room. Call or email Joyce Miller if you want a copy and she has not already contacted you.

Book Sale News: You may have read that we were going to have a used book sale in the courtyard this month. After some thought, it was decided that it wasn't a safe idea due to COVID-19. Therefore, there will not be a book sale at this time. Joyce will still accept books on Wednesday Sept. 16 from 1 - 5, or by appointment, 432-8751.

### **Yoga with Patti Hawken**

Gentle Yoga with Patti is starting up again, but now at St. James Episcopal Church at the corner of Main and Elm Streets. The class will be in the Great Hall which you can get to through the courtyard door on Elm Street side. There is parking behind the church or on the street. Classes start on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

### **PRAYER LIST – September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Recovering or continuing in treatment: Dave Wilkinson.

Focus Rehab: Bill Pharr (1445 Kemble Street, Room 207, Utica NY 13501)

Kathryn Roffe is in rehab at Chase Memorial N H & Rehab Center, PO Box 250, New Berlin, NY 13411

Prayer Requests: Prayer requests will be published for 4 weeks. If you would like to extend a request, please call the church office to talk to the secretary or leave her a message.

- Ramona Leavey asks for prayers for her family & friends
- Reba Mitchell, Aaron Miller's grandmother
- Keshia Genzardi
- Sharon McCarthy's best friend, Carolyn
- Prayers for Irene Morrissey, recovering from hip replacement and a broken femur
- Ramona Leavey's neighbor, Wanita, recovering from surgery
- Ramona Leavey's friend, Mady, having surgery on 9/14
- Ramona Leavey's friend Mike, recovering from surgery

*Rev. Marti's brother, Peter Swords, passed away on August 25. As you know, he has been on our prayer list for many months. Please keep all of Marti's family in your prayers as they go through this difficult time.*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** to *Kathy King, Jean Segina & Zayleigh Rogers* on September 13; *Casey Grant & Jillian Segina* on September 14; *Dylan Fallon-Korb & Liam Fallon-Korb* on September 15; *Samantha Ficano & Tyler Morley* on September 16; *Kathryn Finin & Douglas Sivers* on September 18.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** to both *Christopher & Roselyn Kinnick* and *Michael & Sarah Manchester* on September 17.

**CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK – September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

TODAY        8:15 am Worship by live stream through Facebook  
                  10:00 am Worship by live stream through Zoom — link by computer:  
                  <https://zoom.us/j/195736049>; or call on your phone: 1- 646-558- 8656 Meeting ID: 195 736 049.  
                  You will be admitted from the “waiting room”.  
                  11:00 am Coffee Hour & Fellowship via Zoom

MON. 9/14

TUES. 9/15    Pastor Marti’s Sabbath in the morning  
                  2:00 pm Bible Study by Zoom

WED. 9/16    10:00 am Staff Meeting-by Zoom

THURS. 9/17 10:00 am UMW Book Group by Zoom-call Sharry Strait-Carey  
                  12:00 pm Lectio Divina by Zoom

FRI. 9/18

SAT. 9/19     11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday’s Bread Hot Meal Program

SUN. 9/20     8:15 am Worship by live stream through Facebook  
                  10:00 am Worship by live stream through Zoom — link by computer:  
                  <https://zoom.us/j/195736049>; or call on your phone: 1- 646-558- 8656 Meeting ID: 195 736 049.  
                  You will be admitted from the “waiting room”.  
                  11:00 am Coffee Hour & Fellowship via Zoom

Reader ..... Mark Kuhlmann  
 Song Leaders..... Jennifer Withington, Flora Beth Cunningham, John Jurgensen & Verne Thomas  
 Ministers ..... Every Member of First United Methodist  
 Upper NY Area Bishop..... Rev. Mark J. Webb  
 Oneonta District Superintendent..... Rev. Nancy Adams  
 Oneonta District Associate ..... Rev. George Gallandorm  
 Ordained Minister ..... Rev. Marti Swords-Horrell  
 Co-Lay Leaders..... Gail Niles & Peter Paluch  
 Director of Music Ministries..... John Jurgensen  
 Business & Facilities Manager ..... Jeff Gardner  
 Sexton ..... Randall Wilson  
 Secretary ..... Leslie Bauer  
 Volunteer Caretaker ..... Christopher Brashear  
 Child Care ..... Keshia Genzardi  
 Church Address..... 66 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, NY 13820  
 Church Office Phone.....(607) 432-4102  
 Church email.....secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org  
 Pastor Marti’s email..... pastor@firstumc-oneonta.org  
 Pastor Marti’s cell phone .....(315) 569-9156  
 Church web page.....<http://www.firstumc-oneonta.org>