

# WORSHIP ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

*“FOR THE BEAUTY OF  
THE EARTH”*

July 14, 2024, 9:30 AM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
*AND*  
OUR SAVIOUR'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



*extend the grace and compassion you give to us. Be merciful in your judgment while holding us accountable for your justice as we strive to live the fullness of life in you. Amen.*

#### WORDS OF GRACE

L: Beloved, you were not made to be perfect; you were created to be good. In hope, we affirm that God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. Lean into the power of God to do the work that we cannot, to meet us at our point of need, and to lead us into the path of new life.

**P: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Passing of the Peace [Let us bless one another in Christ as we are comfortable.]

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Colossians 1:15-16

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 13:1-9

READERS THEATRE SKIT: "Unless a Seed is planted" by Sarah Wall

Theme: Dying to Self

Setting: Two people working to plant a community garden

HYMN: "This is My Father's World"

Insert

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Blessed God, whose love calls the whole creation into covenant with you, and who puts in our hand's the responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures: we pray for all to whom you have given life and being, saying, "Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace."

L: For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray:

**ALL: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

L: For the mineral and energy resources of the planet, that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray:

**ALL: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

L: For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small, that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray:

**ALL: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

L: For all who shape public policies affecting the planet and its creatures especially our elected officials in the counties and our cities, that they may consider wisely the well-being of all who come after us, we pray:

**ALL: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

L: For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray:

**ALL: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace. Amen.**

#### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

L: God has planted generosity within our beings. The gifts we receive are not for holding and creating idols, they are for the work of the kingdom, the building of beloved community, and manifesting God's abundance so that all may be well and whole.

#### OFFERTORY

[All loose offering will go toward the Rony's recruit fund. Any designated offering for either church will be given to each church. Thank you for your generosity.]

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***ALL: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts of life and living. We give thanks by bringing our resources to community, to be shared and used for your kingdom, in our ministry, and for the world we inhabit. Bless and facilitate our generosity beyond our imagination. Amen.***

#### BENEDICTION

L: Be assured of the Holy One's abiding love for you and all creation. Hold fast to hope and share the blessing of the Spirit's direction, Christ's presence, and the Sustainer's peace.

***ALL: Amen.***

#### POST-SERVICE MUSICAL PRAISE

I Saw the Light

Refreshments after the service

# WE GATHER TOGETHER

*Netherland folk hymn 16<sup>th</sup> Century*  
*Transl. Theodore Baker, 1894*  
*Adapt. Lavon Baylor, 1992*

*KREMSER 12.11.12.11*  
*16<sup>th</sup> Century Dutch melody*  
*Arr. Edward Kremser, 1877*

## Verse 1:

We gath-er to-geth-er to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;  
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

## Verse 2:

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining;  
Or-daining, maintaining His kingdom di-vine.  
So from the be-ginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be Thine!

## Verse 3:

We all do extol Thee, hough leader tri-umphant,  
And pray that Thou still our de-fender wilt be.  
Let Thy conge-gation es-cape tribu-lation;  
Thy name be ever praised, O Lord make us free!

# FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

St. 1-3 *Folliott S. Peirpoint, 1864; alt.*  
St. 4 *Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*  
Adapt. *Lavon Baylor, 1992*

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

*Refrain:*

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

Verse 1:

For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,

*Refrain*

Verse 2:

For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and the stars of  
light,

*Refrain*

Verse 3:

For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and  
mild,

*Refrain*

Verse 4:

For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,  
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

*Refrain*

# THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

*Rev. Maltbie Davenport Babcock, 1901*

*Trad. English Melody  
Adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915*

## Verse 1:

This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
His hand the wonders wrought.

## Verse 2:

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;  
He speaks to me ev-ry where.

## Verse 3:

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget,  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King let the heavens ring!  
God reigns let the earth be glad.