

FOREVER

Every Day is Earth Day



24 April 2022
Colleen Thoele, DRE
with Our Children & Youth
Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent



Every Day is Earth Day

Order of Service

April 24, 2022

*Across the world we say: As long as life, as dear, as free,
I am the Earth and the Earth is me*

– Jane Yolen

Gathering

Music for Gathering

Welcome

Colleen Thoele,
Director of Religious Education

Chime

Prelude

My Two Hands Hold the Earth by Hal Walker
performed by the Golden Tones Choir

Words of Gathering

Lola Thoele

Chalice Lighting

Franklin Wakefield

Opening Hymn

#38 *Morning Has Broken*

A Time of Gratitude: Thank you, Earth!

Colleen and Children

Response Hymn to the Earth

#402 *From You I Receive*

Holding One Another in Care and Compassion

A time of silence, sharing sorrows and losses,
pastoral prayer and sharing our joys, wonder and awe

Music Meditation

What a Wonderful World
by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss
performed by Benny Hovancsek, piano

Reflecting

Time for All Ages

Dear, Children of Earth: A Letter from Home
by Schim Schimmel
Colleen Thoele, Raylynn Rome, and Benny,
Katie and Stefanie Workman-Hovancsek

Response

Reading *Earth Day* by Jane Yolen Meredith Wakefield

Response

Renewing Our Commitment of Care Andrew Rome

Responsive Reading Josephine Brannon

*Prayers of the People: U.N. Environmental Sabbath Service,
Earth Day 1990*

Leader: To bring new life to the land, To restore the waters To refresh the air

All: *We join with the earth and with each other.*

Leader: To renew the forests To care for the plants To protect the creatures

All: *We join with the earth and with each other.*

Leader: To celebrate the seas To rejoice in the sunlight To sing the song of the stars

All: *We join with the earth and with each other.*

Leader: To recall our destiny To renew our spirits To reinvigorate our bodies

All: *We join with the earth and with each other.*

Leader: To recreate the human community To promote justice and peace To remember our children

All: *We join with the earth and with each other. We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery: for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.*

Reflection Hymn #298 *Wake Now My Senses*

Returning

Offering *Through All the World Below*, Traditional words by Jeremiah Ingalls, performed by Ellie Mercer and Nora Vesely

Extinguishing the Chalice

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. May we carry these in our hearts and minds until we are together again.

Closing Hymn #1064 *Blue Boat Home*

Benediction

Song of Blessing and Sending *Go On Your Way in Peace*
by Hal Walker
Golden Tones Junior Choir

Next Sunday: *Idleness as a Spiritual Practice*
Led by Commissioned Lay Leader Kathy Kerns
and Worship Associate Heidi Shaffer Bish

Church Office: The church office is located in the Eldredge Annex (yellow house) next to the church building.

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Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing, fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

From You I Receive

From you I receive, to you I give.
Together we share, and from this we live.

Wake, Now, My Senses

Wake, now, my senses, and hear the earth call;
Feel the deep power of being in all;
Keep, with the web of creation your vow,
Giving, receiving as love shows us how.

Wake, now my reason, reach out to the new;
Join with each pilgrim who quests for the true
Honor the beauty and wisdom of time;
Suffer thy limit, and praise the sublime.

Wake, now, compassion, give heed to the cry;
Voices of suffering fill the wide sky;
Take as your neighbor both stranger and friend,
Praying and striving their hardship to end.

Wake, now, my conscience, with justice thy guide
Join with all people whose rights are denied;
Take not for granted a privileged place;
God's love embraces the whole human race.

Wake, now, my vision of ministry clear;
Brighten my pathway with radiance here;
Mingle my calling with all who will share;
Work toward a planet transformed by our care.

Blue Boat Home

Though below me, I feel no motion
standing on these mountains and plains.
Far away from the rolling ocean
still my dry land heart can say:
I've been sailing all my life now,
never harbor or port have I known.
The wide universe is the ocean I travel
and the earth is my blue boat home.

Sun my sail and moon my rudder
as I ply the starry sea,
leaning over the edge in wonder,
casting questions into the deep.
Drifting here with my ship's companions,
all we kindred pilgrim souls,
making our way by the lights of the heavens
in our beautiful blue boat home.

I give thanks to the waves upholding me,
hail the great winds urging me on,
greet the infinite sea before me,
sing the sky my sailor's song;
I was born upon the fathoms,
never harbor or port have I known.
The wide universe is the ocean I travel
and the earth is my blue boat home.