

Fourth Sunday of Easter

"Together: In Truth and Action"



Earth Sunday, April 21, 2024



**Arlington Community Church
United Church of Christ**

*...called to be stewards of creation & to build a just
society based upon the inspiration of our faith*

Sunday, April 21, 2024

~ Fourth Sunday of Easter/Earth Day ~



*“The most effective thing you can do about climate change
as an individual is to stop being an individual.”*

— Bill McKibben

Gathering for Worship

**Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand if able.*

Prelude

The ACC Ensemble

“On A Clear Day”

By Alan Jay Lerner and Burton Lane

Welcome

Rev. Jen Chapman

* Gathering Words

Susan Wootton

One: Scripture tells us that “creation waits with eager longing for the children of God to be revealed.”

Many: Creation is waiting for us.

One: To open our eyes to the devastation in our world.

Many: Creation is waiting for us.

One: To put the needs of the most vulnerable above the greed of the powerful.

Many: Creation is waiting for us.

One: To move from doing what is easy to doing what is necessary and right.

Many: Creation is waiting for us.

One: To prioritize the needs of community over the convenience of self.

Many: Creation is waiting for us.

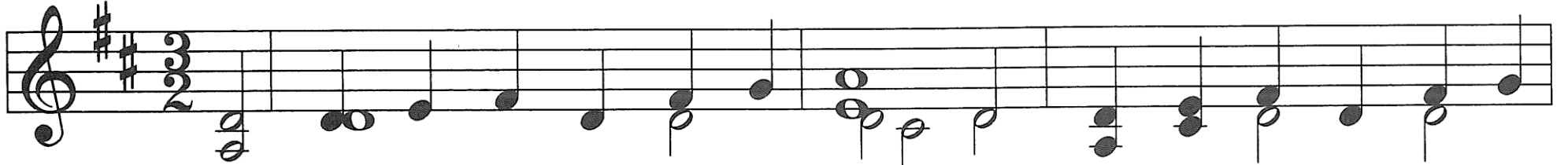
One: To remove the pollution from our seas, land, air, bodies and hearts.

Many: Creation is waiting for us.

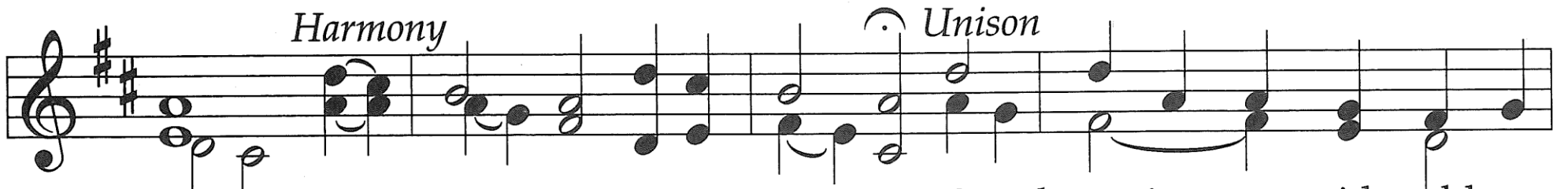
One: In all these things and more, creation waits for us to assume our roles as its servants and protectors.

**Many: With God’s help, we will answer creation’s call.
Amen.**

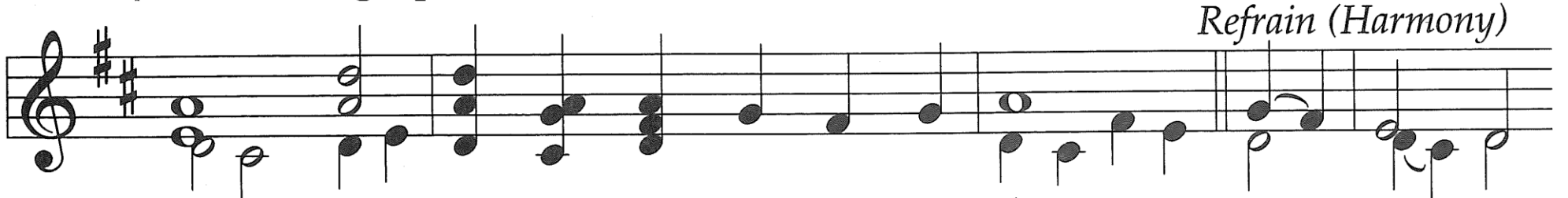
* Opening Hymn "All Creatures of Our God & King" CH#22



1. All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us
2. O rush-ing wind with voice so strong, you clouds that sail in heav'n a-
3. O flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, make mu-sic for your God to
4. And all for-giv-en ten-der hearts, for-giv-ing oth-ers, take your



sing; Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! O burn-ing sun with gold-en
 long, O praise God, Al-le - lu - ia! O ris-ing morn, in praise re-
 hear, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! O blaz-ing fire who lights the
 part, sing prais - es, Al-le - lu - ia! You who long pain and sor-row



beam, O sil - ver moon with soft-er gleam,
 joice, you lights of eve - ning find a voice, O praise God,
 night, pro - vid-ing warmth, en-hanc-ing sight,
 bear, praise God, who knows your ev - 'ry care.



O praise God, Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia!

Declaration of God's Love

Silence for Meditation & Bell

In our busy, noisy world, we offer a few minutes of silence to meditate and let your soul arrive in this place of worship.

* Passing the Peace

To share the peace with those worshipping online, please face the camera behind the lectern and offer a heart, a wave or other sign of peace.

Naming Our Gratitude

We name into our space those things for which we are grateful.

Praying for Our World

Call to Prayer

“Courage My Friend”

By Eric Bogle

**Courage (courage)
my friend (my friend),
You do not walk alone.
We will (we will)
walk with you (walk with you),
And sing your spirit home.**

Prayer for the Earth

One: Creator God, Thank you for the many good gifts you have given us — so much beauty and abundance in creation all around us.

Many: **The earth is yours, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.**

One: And yet we hear creation groaning and we have heavy hearts. Forgive us for our role in polluting the environment, for our apathy and our silence, for choosing what is convenient without considering the impact on people and creation.

Many: **The earth is yours, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.**

One: Help us fulfill Jesus’ call to love our neighbors and take action to look out for one another.

Continued on the next page →

We remember the people on the frontline of plastic pollution. We pray to you, Lord, that you protect them from the diseases and flooding that come with plastic pollution and that they may find comfort in you. We pray for each of the 20 million waste pickers around the world who do vital work. They collect plastics for recycling, and yet are often overlooked and underpaid. Let their voices be heard and their human rights and livelihoods protected.

Many: The earth is yours, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.

One: We pray that world leaders would act on plastic pollution, coming together to agree on an ambitious and binding plastics treaty. Give wisdom and soft hearts to those involved in the negotiations. Help us to use our own voices to advocate for the care of creation.

Many: The earth is yours, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.

One: We pray for the global church, for all the communities and people affected by plastic pollution, that you may keep them close to you. Help us to restore and care for this beautiful earth you blessed us with.

Many: Amen!

Lighting of the Prayer Candles

Susan Wootton

Each Sunday we light candles for victims of the wars of our world and for those affected by gun violence, praying for justice, freedom from oppression, relief from suffering, and peace.

Celebrations & Concerns

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

*At the end of the Morning Prayer,
please join in with words that are comfortable to you.*

**Our [Father/Mother/Creator] who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your Kingdom come, your 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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the Kingdom, the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Response

"Courage My Friend"

Listening for God's Still Speaking Voice

Special Music

The ACC Ensemble

"He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother"

By Bob Russell and Bobby Scott

Moment for the Young & Young at Heart Rev. Jen Chapman

Scripture

Susan Wootton

1 John 3:16-24, NRSVUE

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us, for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God, and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

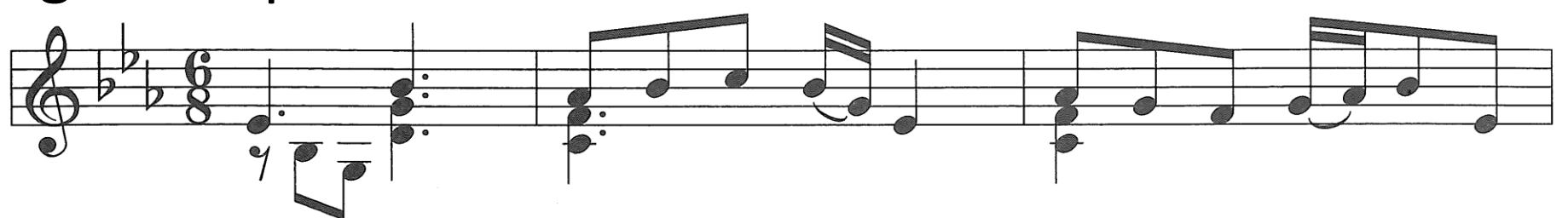
Interpreting for Our Time

Rev. Jen Chapman

“Together: In Truth and Action”

Song of Response

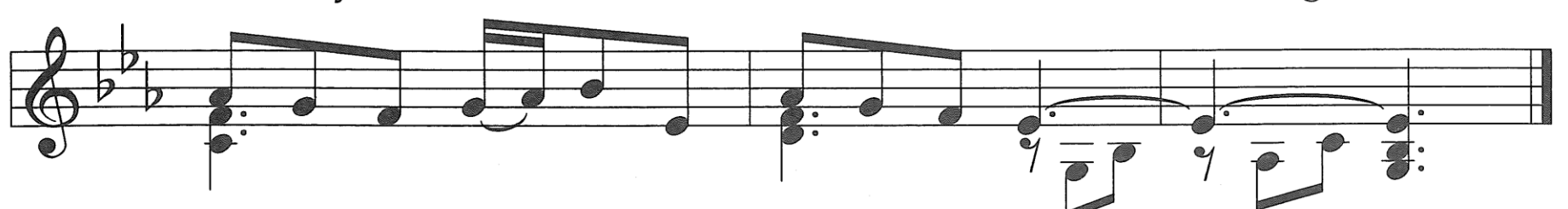
“Weave” CH#495



Weave, weave, weave us to - geth - er. Weave us to - geth - er in



u - ni - ty and love. Weave, weave, weave us to - geth - er.



Weave us to - geth - er, to - geth - er in love.

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts

Invitation to Give

Susan Wootton

One: As we celebrate the hope of new life and the call to live out our faith in community, we are inspired to serve and to give. May we continue to support the work of this church and the wider United Church of Christ with our ongoing pledges and our morning offering.

Offertory

The ACC Ensemble
"The Maple's Lament"

By Laurie Lewis

* Response

"What Does the Lord Require of Me?"

What does the Lord re - quire of you? What does the
Lord re - quire of me? Jus - tice kind - ness
walk hum - bly with your God. To seek jus - tice
and love kind - ness and walk hum - bly with your God.

Prayer of Dedication

All: Creator God, receive these gifts and use them to bring hope and new life to many. Teach us to love not just in our words or speech, but in truth and action. Open our eyes and ears to all of creation crying out for help and empower us to live in love. Weave us together and lead us to abundant life. Amen.

Moving Out to the World

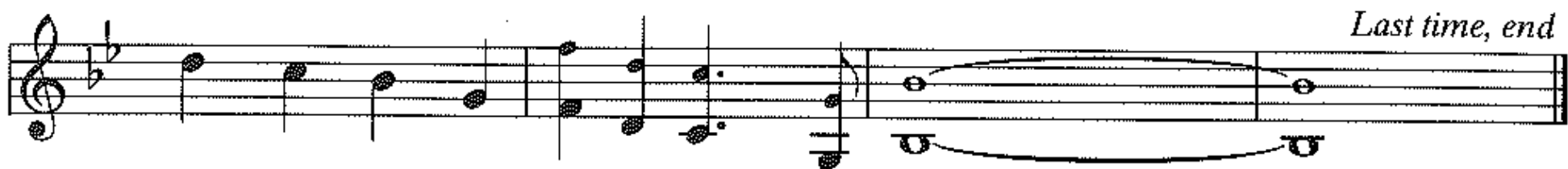
Announcements

*Closing Hymn

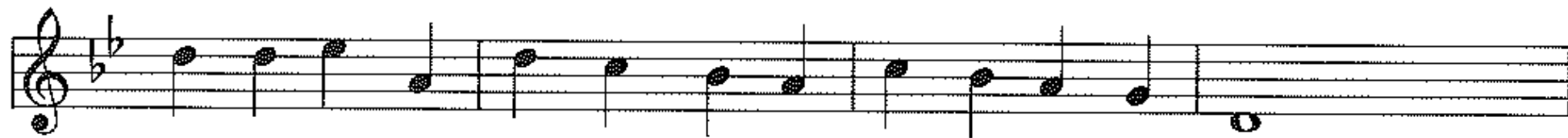
"Savior God Above" NCH#602



Sav-ior God a - bove, God al - might-y, God of love,



please look down and see my peo - ple through.



- 1 I be-lieve that God put sun and moon up in the sky.
- 2 Heav-en is a good-ness time, a bright-er light on high.
- 3 I be-lieve God is now, was then, and al-ways will be.



I don't mind the gray skies, 'cause they're just clouds pass-ing by.
Love your neigh-bor as your - self, and have a bright-er by and by.
With God's bless-ing we can make it through e - ter - ni - ty.

* Words of Blessing

Rev. Jen Chapman

Postlude

The ACC Ensemble

"The Impossible Dream"

By Joe Darion and Mitch Leigh

Worship Ends & Worship through Service Begins

Join us for Social Hour in the Social Hall after Morning Worship!

Please **recycle** your used bulletin.

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Office & Rentals Voicemail: (510) 526-9146 ext. 1
E-mail: acc.ucc.staff@gmail.com
Music Director: Jeffrey Frederic Paul
Accompanist/Ensemble: Tim K. Murphy
Live Audio/Video: Sean Whitman
Worship Hosts: Faith & Roger Abel
Greeters: Linda Young & Adam Wayne
Liturgist: Susan Wootton
The ACC Ensemble: Joe Pratt, *saxophone, bass, & vocals*
Kelly Back, *guitar*
Richard Mayers, *percussion*
Tim K. Murphy, *piano & vocals*
Ministers: All the Members

FIND ARLINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH ONLINE AT:

www.arlingtoncommunitychurchucc.org

www.facebook.com/arlingtoncommunitychurchucc

Upcoming Events at Arlington Community Church

The Week at a Glance

Sun, Apr 21	11:15 AM	Film Screening: <i>Common Ground</i>
Mon, Apr 22	5 & 6 PM	Choir & Bell Choir Rehearsal
Tues, Apr 23	11:00 AM	Checking In & Reaching Out
	12:00 PM	Sermon Scripture Study
	7:00 PM	Spiritual Journeys: Susan Francis
Weds, Apr 24	7:00 PM	Midweek Sermon Reflection
Fri, Apr 26	1:30 PM	Fireside Films: <i>Life of Pi</i>
Sun, Apr 28	10:00 AM	Morning Worship & Social Hour

TODAY! Film Screening: *Common Ground*

Join us in the Fireside Room after Morning Worship for a film brought to you by BMSJ. *Common Ground* provides hope for future generations, exploring how regenerative agriculture can help heal the soil, our health & the planet.

Earth Day Action

If you're feeling inspired to take some action this Earth Day, be sure to check out this week's Parishscope. There are links to sign the EarthDay.org "Global Plastics Treaty" Petition and a letter from UCC Creation Justice Ministries to urge Congress to pass the REDUCE Act. If you're not currently receiving the Parishscope (our weekly digital newsletter) you can find it on our website.

NEW DAY & TIME! Sermon Scripture Study

A weekly study group lead by Pastor Jen on the sermon Scripture for each upcoming Sunday. We will read the Scripture together, share initial reflections, and discuss interpretation.

Spiritual Journeys: Susan Francis

Join on **Tuesday April 23rd at 7PM** for a Spiritual Journeys conversation, where we interview different members of ACC about their backgrounds and the role of faith in their lives.

This month's guest is Susan Francis.

Faith Formation Fourth Friday Fireside Films: *Life of Pi*

Faith Formation will present its monthly film offering, *Life of Pi* (2012) in the ACC Fireside Room. Please plan to arrive around 1:30 to allow time to visit and settle in to watch the two-hour film starting at 1:45. Of course there will be popcorn and lemon water to enjoy during the film and an after-film discussion.

Check our website for updated programming! www.arlingtoncommunitychurchucc.org/events-at-acc



Picture taken by Robert Stokstad

God calls **Arlington Community Church**
To be an Open and Affirming
Spiritual center, which welcomes people
Of all ages, races, mental and physical abilities,
Sexual orientations and gender identities
into our diverse **community**.



As a **Jubilee congregation**, we believe in
building an economy that serves, protects,
& promotes participation of the most vulnerable.



A Creation Justice Church
Where all individuals who feel called to be a "voice for
this planet" can be part of this mission, regardless of
religious affiliations.