



April 25th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

4th Sunday of Easter

Integrity of Creation/Earth Justice Sunday

Union Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming, Earthwise,
Progressive Christian Congregation*

Elk River, Minnesota 763-441-1203

www.elkriverucc.org / churchoffice@elkriverucc.org

Welcome!

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ welcomes everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey.

During this time of social distancing due to the COVID-19 virus, we are conducting worship via Facebook Live broadcasts. You can watch it live, or at any time after the service.

Please contact the church at any time if you need to reach out. We are here – just a safe distance away.

We will continue to assess the situation and listen to the advice from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota UCC Conference office in making decisions on how to move forward. Please pay attention to your email for further updates.

Grace and Peace to all.



VISION

God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

(Micah 6:8, (NIV))

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Mission Statement



God calls us to minister to each other. This ministry goes beyond our congregation into the community, wider world, and to the earth itself. We seek to reach those in the margins of society, to empower the powerless, and to leave this earth a better place than when we each arrived.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF CENTERING

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

- Rachel Carson

LIGHTING THE CANDLES and WELCOME

We invite you to click a Reaction button on Facebook to let us know you are with us.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP 236 Halleluja

Halleluja 236

Traditional

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 - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(PLEASE JOIN IN CALL AND RESPONSE)

One: This is the season for rakes and trowels, for garden gloves and greening grass, for budding shrubs and birthing wild babies.

Many: May we also be active in the work and play of grounding ourselves in faith.

One: This is the season for reveling and absorbing the sun's warmth.

Many: May our hearts and minds also soak up the wisdom of God.

One: This is the season for flying kites and riding bikes, for leisurely walks and brisk runs.

Many: May we soar and glide and rest in hope, yet always offering and receiving the love of our Creator.

All Things Bright and Beautiful

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*Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.**Unison
Refrain*

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

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,

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.

to Refrain

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & PEACE PRAYER

*GREETING OF PEACE

In the same spirit in which we receive the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ, let us offer to one another our own sign of peace.

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Carson

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 23

1 YHWH, you are my shepherd— I want nothing more. 2 You let me lie down in green meadows; you lead me beside restful waters: 3 you refresh my soul. You guide me to lush pastures for the sake of your Name. 4 Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death, I fear no danger, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff— they give me courage. 5 You spread a table for me in the presence of my enemies, and you anoint my head with oil— my cup overflows! 6 Only goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in your house, YHWH, for days without end.

REFLECTION

Good Shepherds / Good Stewards

God Is My Shepherd

479

Scottish Psalter, 1650

Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992

Ps. 23



1 God is my shep-herd, I'll not want, I feed in pas-tures green.
 2 Re - stored to life each morn-ing new, I rise up from the dust
 3 When I must pass through shad-owed vale, where loss and death a - wait,
 4 No en - e - my can o - ver - come, no power on earth de - feat
 5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my days will sure - ly fol - low me;



God grants me rest and bids me drink from wa - ters calm and clean.
 to fol - low God whose pres - ence gives me con - fi - dence and trust.
 I will not fear for God is there, my shep-herd strong and great,
 the ones a - noint-ed by God's grace and fed with man - na sweet.
 and where God reigns in heaven and earth, my dwell-ing place will be.



Through dai - ly tasks, I'm blessed and led by One I have not seen.
 I praise the name of God to - day; in God I put my trust.
 Whose rod and staff will com - fort me and all my fears a - bate.
 My cup is filled and o - ver-flows as I my Sav - ior greet.
 My shep-herd bless - es, cares, and leads through all e - ter - ni - ty.



OUR TIME OF SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT (let us pray together)

Our Creator 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GIVE/RECEIVING OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (let us pray together)

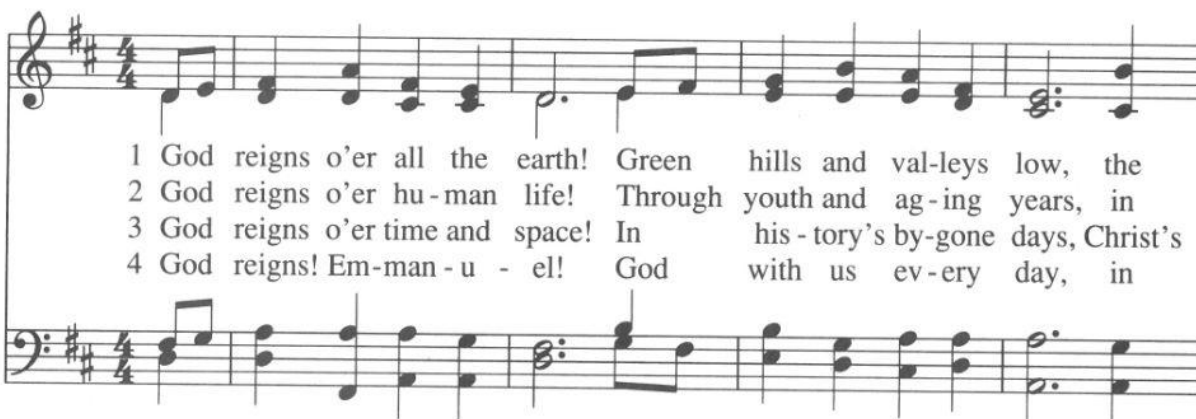
Creator God of all the earth, you have breathed life into us. We are captivated by your grace and motivated by your love. It is in response to your presence in our lives through these gifts that we offer our gifts as contributions to the work and play of the living church. Accept our gifts and our giving. Amen.

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

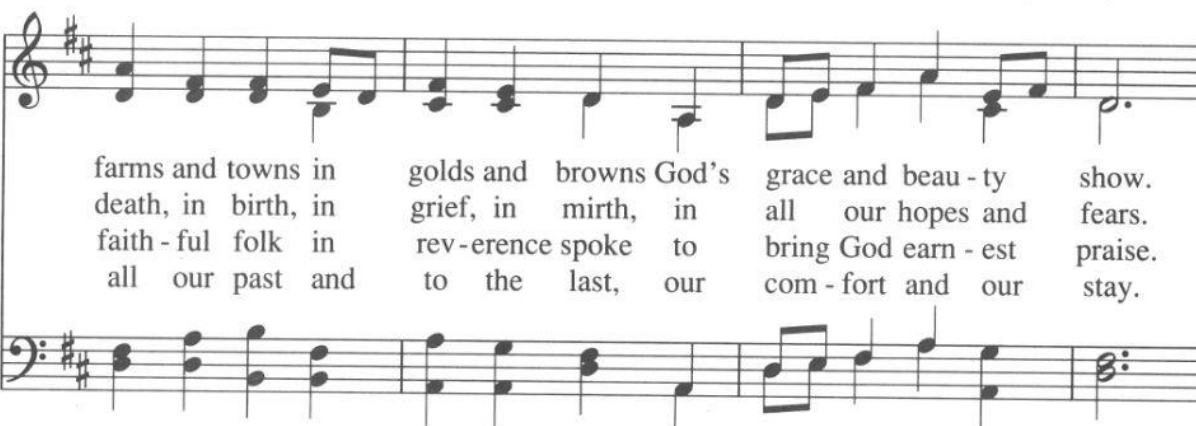
21

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

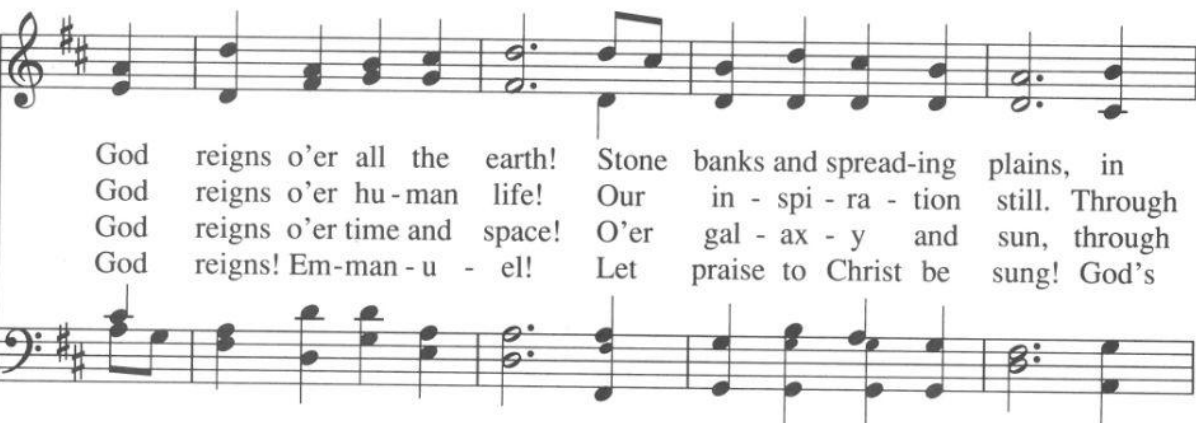
Isa. 52:7-10



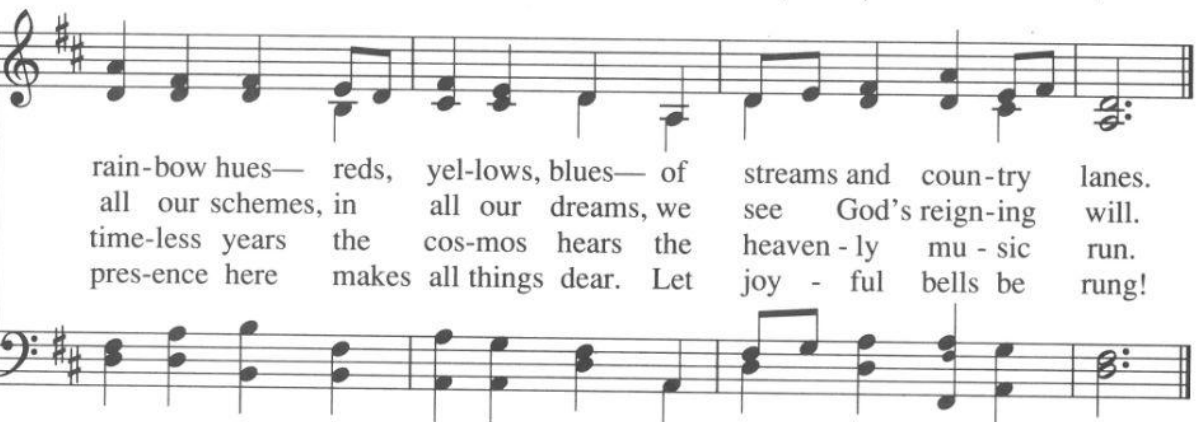
1 God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val-leys low, the
 2 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Through youth and ag-ing years, in
 3 God reigns o'er time and space! In his-tory's by-gone days, Christ's
 4 God reigns! Em-man-u-el! God with us ev-ery day, in



farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau-ty show.
 death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
 faith-ful folk in rev-erence spoke to bring God earn-est praise.
 all our past and to the last, our com-fort and our stay.



God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread-ing plains, in
 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Our in-spi-ra-tion still. Through
 God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal-ax-y and sun, through
 God reigns! Em-man-u-el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's



rain-bow hues—reds, yel-lows, blues—of streams and coun-try lanes.
 all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign-ing will.
 time-less years the cos-mos hears the heaven-ly mu-sic run.
 pres-ence here makes all things dear. Let joy-ful bells be rung!

BENEDICTION

One: Go in peace, my friends. Celebrate the wonders of creation and know that in all the seasons of our lives God is with us.

Many: May we listen to the songs of the rivers and the hymns of the trees. May we touch the earth with love and respect.

One: May God bless us and hold us gently as we seek to do God's work in this world. Our service has ended, our service begins. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Elk River Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Pastor: Rev. Robin Raudabaugh

Director of Faith Formation:

Gigi Nauer

Office Administrator:

Rylie Anderson

Piano & Organ: Carson Schneider

Handbell and Chorister Director:

Gigi Nauer

Choir Director: Sam Eckberg

Liturgist: Marce Ediger

Cantor: Sam Eckberg

Announcements

Office Hours

Office hours for the church this week are Monday through Wednesday, 9:00am to 1:00pm. Rev. Robin is available by appointment or can always be contacted during the day, evenings & weekends via phone or text at 651.216.9012 or email revrobin@elkriverucc.org. Call the church at (763) 441-1203 to talk with Rylie about access to the building or answering general questions. You can always email the church office at churchoffice@elkriverucc.org.

Pastoral Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, an accident, or a death, please call the church office or contact Rev. Robin Raudabaugh directly via phone or text at 651.216.9012 or revrobin@elkriverucc.org.

Church Materials

Copies of the Sunday sermon are available via Facebook and UCC Squared Newsletter (email).

KEPT IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers our congregation members: Ella Rivers, Donna Church, Musz Bailey, Jim Babcock, Shelley Sherper, Bobbie Berg, Susan Olsen, Jackie Schuelein, Carol Lloyd, Dave Leland, Joanne Burdick, Ruby Cawthra, Jane Houlton, baby James Bowman, Marion Marcott, Cheryl Wold, Judy Halgren, Amy Britt, Bailey Rosdahl, Jimmy Stevens, Dee & Jim Stevens (Jimmy's parents), Dave Foley, John Olson, Nicole [Kilber] Teske, Linda Fenton, Dave Halgren, Diane Narr, Joan Axen and Nancy Andersen

SCHEDULE FOR THE COMING WEEKS

Sunday, April 25th, 2021

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service via
Facebook Live**

**11:00 a.m. All Church Spring Clean Up
Liturgist: Marce Ediger**

Tuesday, April 27th, 2021

5:00 p.m. Congregational Life

6:30 p.m. Bible Study (virtual)

**6:30 p.m. Outside Group (Female
Scouts)**

Wednesday, April 28th, 2021

**3:45 SARI Protest Sherburne County
Gov't center**

Thursday, April 29th, 2021

6:00 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)

Sunday, May 2nd, 2021

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service via
Facebook Live**

CAER Offering

**1:00p.m. Pastor in the Parking Lot
(Weather Permitting)**

Liturgist:

Tuesday, May 4th, 2021

6:30 p.m. Bible Study (virtual)

**6:30 p.m. Outside Group (Female
Scouts)**

Wednesday, May 5th, 2021

**3:45 SARI Protest Sherburne County
Gov't center**

Thursday, May 6th, 2021

6:00 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)

6:30 p.m. Council Meeting

Friday, May 7th, 2021

6:00 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)