

**Congregational Church of Birmingham
United Church of Christ**

A Just World for All



**Sunday
May 2, 2021
10:00 AM**

Rev. Dr. Ruth Duck wrote our opening hymn today. Ruth was one of my worship professors when I was in seminary and is now a retired pastor in the United Church of Christ. In this text Ruth says she wanted to “emphasize humanity’s shared partnership with God in caring for one another and the whole creation.” It’s not about ownership, but shared responsibility. Let’s sing together.

OPENING SONG “We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”

Sing Along

[CH #684]

**We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wild-flow’rs growing,
for we are part of all that is
within life’s river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
the gifts of God’s creation,
that all may have abundant life
in ev’ry earthly nation.**

**When bodies shiver in the night
and, weary, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears,
and war horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake,
to join in common labor,
that all may have abundant life
in oneness with their neighbor.**

**God calls humanity to join
as partners in creating
a future free from want and fear,
life’s goodness celebrating.
That new world beckons from afar,
invites our shared endeavor,
that all may have abundant life
and peace endure forever.**

You put gushing springs into dry riverbeds. They flow between the mountains, ¹¹providing water for every wild animal—the wild donkeys quench their thirst. ¹²Overhead, the birds in the sky make their home, chirping loudly in the trees. ¹³From your lofty house, you water the mountains. The earth is filled full by the fruit of what you've done. ¹⁴You make grass grow for cattle; you make plants for human farming in order to get food from the ground, ¹⁵and wine, which cheers people's hearts, along with oil, which makes the face shine, and bread, which sustains the human heart. ¹⁶The LORD's trees are well watered—the cedars of Lebanon, which God planted, ¹⁷where the birds make their nests, where the stork has a home in the cypresses. ¹⁸The high mountains belong to the mountain goats; the ridges are the refuge of badgers. ¹⁹God made the moon for the seasons, and the sun too, which knows when to set. ²⁰You bring on the darkness and it is night, when every forest animal prowls. ²¹The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. ²²When the sun rises, they gather together and lie down in their dens. ²³Then people go off to their work, to do their work until evening.

²⁴LORD, you have done so many things! You made them all so wisely! The earth is full of your creations! ²⁵And then there's the sea, wide and deep, with its countless creatures—living things both small and large. ²⁶There go the ships on it, and Leviathan, which you made, plays in it! ²⁷All your creations wait for you to give them their food on time. ²⁸When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled completely full! ²⁹But when you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to dust. ³⁰When you let loose your breath, they are created, and you make the surface of the ground brand-new again.

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Heleluyan"
(Alleluia)

[UMH #78]

He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan;

he - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.

WORDS: Trad. Muscogee (Creek) Indian
MUSIC: Trad. Muscogee (Creek) Indian; transcription by Charles H. Webb
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HELELUYAN
Irr.

CCLI #741179

GROUNDING SUNDAY WITH CHILDREN

Dr. Carmel Tinnes,
Director of Christian Education

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Heleluyan"

See Above

CONVERSATION

"Grounded"

Pastor & People

MUSIC OF THE DAY

"It's a New Day"

Colligan

PRAYERS FOR ALL GOD'S CREATION

Pastor Louise

Mother Earth hear your children,
As we sit here on your lap of grass,
and listen to the echoes of your voice in the Wind.
The soft and gentle raindrops are the Tears you cry for your children.
Teach us the Lessons you offer: To nurture all children,
To learn the Lessons of the Four Kingdoms,
that make up this World of Physical Things, and
To Learn to Walk the Path chosen so long ago.
Mother Earth, hear your children,
Be a bond between the Worlds of Earth and Spirit.
Let the Winds echo the Knowledge of the Grandparents.
Let me hear their Voices, in the Winds that Blow to the East.
From the East: we seek the Lessons of Childhood:
To see with the trusting innocence of a small one,
The Lessons of Spirit, Given in Love by our Creator.
From the South: to Learn the Ways of Questioning:
The Fire and Independence of adolescence,
The Truths, and how they help us Grow along this Path.
From the West: where the Grandparents teach us
Acceptance of Responsibility
That come during the years of commitment
to relationships and Family.

That all children grow Strong, and True.
From the North: where the Elders, who by their long lives
Have Learned to Walk in Balance and Harmony with
our Mother, the Earth.
Mother Earth, hear your children.
Hold our hands as we Walk the Path in this World.
Guide us to the Lessons we seek, bring us closer to Our Creator,
Until we return to the Western Direction,
to once again Enter the World of Spirit,
Where the Sacred Fire Awaits, and we join the Council of the Elders,
In the Presence of the One Who-Created-All.

As God's people awake to the pain of others and ourselves, we offer our prayers for the living of these days...

Let us remember God's loving hope for our lives as we join our hearts and voices to pray the disciples' prayer of Jesus saying...

THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER OF JESUS

Pastor & People

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

We continue to pray for:

- All persons at risk in contracting COVID-19
- Annabelle, Cindy Kyle's mother, struggling with pain and weight loss from oral surgery
- David, brother of Paul von Oeyen, diagnosed with aggressive leukemia
- Educators in pandemic challenges
- Jackie Wagoner, recovering from hip replacement surgery
- Joyce, Pastor Louise and Elaine's friend, with terminal ALS; and cousin Suzy, in hospice care
- Kevin Wilson, grieving the death of his father, Neal

- Melissa and Calliope Crook, to be reunited permanently
- Rob, Sue Potter's brother, with metastasized cancer in his bones
- Ruth Biersdorf, in treatment for cancer
- Victims of war, violence, and natural disasters everywhere
- We hold CCB families in supportive prayer, especially working adults with children educating at home
- Youth and adults with mental health challenges

CLOSING SONG

"Sent Out in Jesus' Name"

(sing twice)

Sing Along

[FWS #2184]

**Sent out in Jesus' name,
our hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.**

**Sent out in Jesus' name,
our hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.**

**The angels cannot change
a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love,
of justice and of peace.**

**The task is ours to do,
to set it really free.
O help us to obey
and carry out your will.**

CCLI #741179

AN EARTH BLESSING FROM GOD

Pastor Louise

May the warm winds of heaven blow gently on your house,
and may the great spirit bless all who enter.

May your moccasins make happy tracks in many snows,
and may the rainbow always touch your shoulder.

May God's goodness be known to you
in the tall trees and flowing rivers.

May God's goodness be known to you

in the fresh and beautiful plants for our food.
May God's goodness be known to you
in the miracle of this garden, our home. Amen.

POSTLUDE

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

C. Kocher,
arr. J. Raney

LIVING AS A CREATION BLESSING

You may give electronically using the "Donate" link on our website at www.ccbucc.org, log in and donate to whatever fund you choose – Giving Commitments, the five UCC Offerings, other Outreach partners, and more! Or mail your donation check to CCB-UCC, 1000 Cranbrook Rd, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2725, Attn: Treasurer. Questions? Please contact our Treasurer, Lynn Wilsher, at treasurerccb@gmail.com.

CREDITS: Prayer of the Day – Kiiskeen'tum – She Who Remembers. CCLI #741179.

WE THANK our Tech Team: Gabriel White-Vega and Chris Hiner, Worship Design Team: Leslie O'Day-Benyo and Elaine Winter, Joe Bentley, and Yalan Piao, for all their help with today's service.

OUR MINISTRY UPDATES

JOIN SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH CARMEL on Sunday mornings @ 9:15 AM before worship. Contact Carmel to get the info needed to join the Children's Zoom Time, carmelf711@yahoo.com

ZOOM COMMUNION & COMMA CONVERSATION - Please have your bread and grape juice ready immediately following worship TODAY, when we come together for prayers and communion on Zoom hosted by Rev. Penny Lowes immediately after worship. We will celebrate the sacrament together in the Congregational tradition, as one community of God's people and disciples of Jesus Christ.

We will then have a Zoom Comma Conversation about the 2021 UCC Virtual General Synod with our guest Rev. Penny Lowes, Moderator for the Special Virtual Synod 33, Rooted in Love.

"CREATION RESILIENCE: GOD'S TWO BOOKS" SCRIPTURE STUDY: Class is available on Zoom NOW on Tuesdays @ 7:00 PM OR Wednesday, May 12 (only) @ 10:00 AM. See the Zoom link sent via MailChimp email each Tuesday morning. Bring a Bible or the weekly Study Guide along to class.

The Scriptures are discussed ahead of each Sunday Theme:

05-09-21 > Mark 8:14-21 - Do We Have Eyes & Ears?

05-16-21 > Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - Two Books

This Easter season we encounter the perpetual resurrection that God provides to us as members of the creation soils, waters, memories, cycles, responsibilities, and awarenesses.

Or more eloquently stated by Walt Whitman in his Preface to *Leaves of Grass*:
"This is what you shall do; Love the earth and sun and the animals, despise riches, give alms to every one that asks, stand up for the stupid and crazy, devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants, argue not concerning God, have patience and indulgence toward the people, take off your hat to nothing known or unknown or to any person or number of people, go freely and with the powerful uneducated persons and with the young and with the mothers of families, read these leaves in the open air every season of every year of your life, re-examing all you have been told at school or church or in any book, dismiss whatever insults your own soul, and your very flesh shall become a great poem and have the richest fluency not only in its words but in the silent lines of its lips and face and between the lashes of your eyes and in every motion and joint of your body."

Questions? Contact Dr. Carmel (carmelf711@yahoo.com).

SUNDAY MORNING INFO WITH ZOOM & YOU TUBE LINKS! Check your email each Friday for the Weekly E-Update message, which contains important information and all the up-to-date Zoom and YouTube links for the Worship Service, Social Hour, Adult CE Classes, and special meetings and events.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FUTURE CHURCH GUIDANCE TEAM:

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE CONVERSATION - For the past 12 months, we have been privileged to work with the Rev. Dr. Paul Nixon as we envision a

relevant and sustainable future for CCB. As his time with us draws to a close, you are invited to gather for a Q&A session with Rev. Nixon via Zoom on Wednesday, May 12, at 8:00 PM. The centerpiece of our time together will be Rev. Nixon's Spring 2021 **Ministry Recommendations Report**. You can access a copy of this report and the future church timeline presented at our annual meeting, by clicking the links found in last Friday's Weekly E-Update email. We hope you'll plan to be with us on Zoom at the Future Church Conversation with Rev. Dr. Paul Nixon at 8 PM, Wednesday, May 12.

Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86556366030?pwd=MHZUa3E4YmVibkZ2aFM3MzlaVXBPQT09>

Meeting ID: 865 5636 6030

Password: Blessed



LIGHTHOUSE CARROT FUND – FEED THE CCB BUNNY! CCB is hopping to collect 2,021 'carrots' by Sunday, May 23! Each \$1 'carrot' donation gets us closer to that goal. Won't you help? Weekly progress updates will be provided. All 'carrot' money goes to Lighthouse's 2021 COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund, which helps provide 2,000 boxes of food each week. You can donate through CCB's *myEoffering* to the

'Lighthouse Carrot Fund' or mail a check to CCB with 'Carrot Fund' in the memo line. Questions? Contact Pat Parker at rparker281914MI@comcast.net

EMERGENCY WATER SITUATION IN BENTON HARBOR: The city of Benton Harbor is experiencing some severe water shortages. Rev. Pinckney of God's Household of Faith, has informed us the water crisis in Benton Harbor has taken a turn for the worse. They have determined the water supply is contaminated with lead and bacteria. Peace Nick shipped out a full pallet of water (288 gallons) last week and would like to send a few more. Please donate to this effort. Simply proceed to the Peace Nick website (www.peacenick.org) and click on "Water Crisis". Or directly link to the water donate page:

www.peacenick.org/cgi-bin/index.pl?fs=2&init=1. If you have questions, call Greg Panzica (Executive Director of Peace Nick) at (313) 215-5767 or Paul von Oeyen at (248) 891-7509.

What's Happening @ CCB-UCC This Week

Bold indicates CCB and/or UCC related event. Regular font indicates outside usage.

<u>Sunday</u> <u>5/2/21</u>	9:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 11:15 AM	Sunday School with Carmel (Zoom) Worship (YouTube) Social Hour Communion (Zoom) Comma Conversation: UCC General Synod 2021 (Zoom)
<u>Monday</u> <u>5/3/21</u>	7:00 AM 12:00 PM Varies	Sober Morning AA (AR) New Beginnings of B.H. AA (AR & FH) JanPro (all areas)
<u>Tuesday</u> <u>5/4/21</u>	6:00 AM 12:00 PM 7:00 PM	Madeleine's French Patisserie (K & P) New Beginnings of B.H. AA (AR & FH) Easter Scripture Study (Zoom)
<u>Wednesday</u> <u>5/5/21</u>	7:00 AM 12:00 PM 7:00 PM	Sober Morning AA (AR) New Beginnings of B.H. AA (AR & FH) Survivors of Suicide Loss (AR)
<u>Thursday</u> <u>5/6/21</u>	6:00 AM 12:00 PM	Madeleine's French Patisserie (K & P) New Beginnings of B.H. AA (AR & FH)
<u>Friday</u> <u>5/7/21</u>	7:00 AM 12:00 PM 2:00 PM	Sober Morning AA (AR) New Beginnings of B.H. AA (AR & FH) Family Farms Cooperative (FH)
<u>Saturday</u> <u>5/8/21</u>	8:30 AM	Recording Worship (S)
<u>Sunday</u> <u>5/9/21</u>	9:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM	Sunday School with Carmel (Zoom) Worship (YouTube) Social Hour (Zoom)
<u>Monday</u> <u>5/10/21</u>	7:00 AM 12:00 PM 7:00 PM Varies	Sober Morning AA (AR) New Beginnings of B.H. AA (AR & FH) Stephen Ministry Meeting (Zoom) JanPro (all areas)

The complete church calendar is on our website: www.ccbucc.org

A Just World for All

Fifth Sunday of Easter **May 2, 2021**

Welcome to CCB-UCC an "Open and Affirming" Church

We warmly welcome everyone to worship and into the full life and leadership of the church. Whatever your background - your race, your nationality, your physical or mental condition, your gender, your sexual orientation - whoever you are and wherever you come from, we welcome you in love as Jesus Christ welcomes all. Gathered by the Holy Spirit, may the comfort and challenge of God's presence renew and inspire us all throughout the coming week. Again, welcome!



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Contact a Stephen Minister Leader:

Dr. Paul von Oeyen 248-646-0837

Rev. Louise R. Ott 989-245-0092

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BIRMINGHAM

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DENOMINATIONAL WEBSITE: www.ucc.org

CHURCH LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Ministers - The Congregation

Dr. Carmel Tinnes, Director of Christian Education

Dr. Yalan Piao, Accompanist

Rev. Louise R. Ott, Pastor

Dr. Joe Bentley, Choral Director

Beth Prevost, Church Administrator

Office Hours: Open Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM, lunch break 12:30 PM-1:00 PM