



**“Stewardship of Creation”  
World Communion Sunday  
October 3, 2021  
10:30 a.m. Service**

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship  
and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

***Our Church’s Mission Statement***

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor  
Volunteers, Office Administrator  
Ben Sackett, Custodian  
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director  
Chuck Byam, Organist  
Brandon Frost, Choir Director  
Nicole Finney, Child Care

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## Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ!

*As you look over the bulletin, please notice that you are invited to read aloud **bold** text.  
As you enter the sanctuary, please share your offering in the offering plate by the door.  
We ask that you wear a mask and social distance from others not in your family or pod.*

*If you are new to our church or do not receive email updates from us, please share your name and contact information with us by contacting us: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)*

### MOMENT FOR CENTERING

#### GREETING

One: The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

### INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BELLS/CHIMES

#### INTROIT

“What Brings Us Together”  
(Chancel Choir)

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We were created in relationship and for relationship.

**Many: We are created for community!**

One: God knew it was not good for us to be alone.

**Many: We are created for community!**

One: Through Jesus Christ, God entered into human relationship with us.

**Many: We are created for community!**

One: We rejoice in our unity with all of creation.

**Many: We are created for community!**

#### OPENING HYMN (#31)

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

*(We will remain seated during the hymns and you are encouraged to quietly follow along and reflect on the verses printed in this bulletin while enjoying the music as it is being played.)*

#### GATHERING PRAYER

**Many: Beloved God, you created all of the universe, including this good earth on which we stand. And out of the earth, you created humanity. We are literally people of the soil. So guide our ensouled bodies, we pray, to serve this earth from which we come and to which we return. May we remember that, just as we are in relationship with you, we are in relationship with the earth and everything in and upon it. In your name we pray. Amen.**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Remember Me”

*(Cancel Choir)*

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 2:18-23 NRSV (pg. 2 )

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman (*ishah*), for out of Man (*ish*) this one was taken.”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-3b and 2:5-9 NRSV (pg. 1089)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word...

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, “What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet.” Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

One: Words from the past, made new for us today.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Spirit of Gentleness” (chorus)

**Spirit, spirit of gentleness,  
Blow through the wilderness, calling and free.  
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,  
Stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

HOMILY

“Stewardship of Creation”

*(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)*

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“All That God Wants You To Be”

*(Chuck Byam)*

### Song Lyrics:

*Are you empty, tired of where you are? Does the faith inside you only take you so far? It's always time for growing; we need so much more of the Spirit of the Lord. You can be as full as you want to be; Look inside your heart and you will see all the places that you need to give to Him. Open up your heart and you will see you can be as full as you want to be. But it's up to you how much you let Her in. Open up and you will be as full as you want to be!*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(Since our services are posted publicly on Facebook, we ask that you either leave people unnamed in your prayer requests [ex: prayers for a friend who is in his last stages of life] or that you obtain permission from anyone you wish to name in prayer.)*

### OFFERING MOMENT

*(For those of us meeting in person, you are invited to place your offering in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. For those of you worshipping at home, please give what you can by mail or through prayers. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart [hartacre3@aol.com](mailto:hartacre3@aol.com))*

### DOXOLOGY

#### DEDICATION PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

**Many: Beloved God, accept the gifts we offer, and bless them to the fulfillment of our calling. Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service and compassion. May it be so. Amen**

### INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

#### COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**Many: It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION:

One: Please join me in the Prayer of Confession.

**Many: God-made-flesh, beloved Jesus, bone of our bone, we confess that we think we can go it alone, relying too much on ourselves, instead of reaching out to you and to our community. We confess that we try to do it all, instead of caring for our bodies and spirits, instead of giving ourselves a Sabbath rest, instead of allowing others the chance to share their gifts with us and care for us. We confess that, in doing all of this, we neglect the gifts you have given us: the bone of our bone, the flesh of our flesh, the bodies you created, the people, the earth—all of the relationships you created us for. Jesus Christ, you who lived in a human**



**body, call us to community. Remind us that in you we are one. Awake in us a respect for one another and ourselves, and celebrate with us the diversity within that unity. May it be so now and forever. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Beloved ones, you are the divine creation, and it is not right for you to be alone. But God does not leave you alone. Know now that you are forgiven and called back into relationship with God and with one another...

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Glory be to you, O Lord.  
Blessed is the one who comes,  
Who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BLESSING AND LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

**Many: God, we thank you for inviting us to, and nurturing us at, this table. Send us out now, we pray, showing us how to be in good and loving relationship with all of creation. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN vs 1-4

"We Are Not Our Own"

*(We will remain seated during the hymns and you are encouraged to quietly follow along and reflect on the verses printed in this bulletin while enjoying the music as it is being played.)*

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

"In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful" (sung once)

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful**

**In the Lord, I will rejoice!**

**Look to God, do not be afraid.**

**Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

**Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

POSTLUDE

"May the Lord Bless and Keep You"

(Chuck Byam)

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## SUNDAY ROSTER

**Liturgist** – Jim Hart

**Fresh Perspective** – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

**Homily** – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

**Virtual Coordinator** – David Gruner

**Sound Board** – Karen Walker

**Choir Director** -Brandon Frost

**Pianist/Organist** – Chuck Byam

**Hymn Singer** –

**Usher** – Fay Schroeder

**Greeter** – Lynn Hart

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# All Things Bright and Beautiful

Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Unison  
Refrain

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

Last time, end

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,

to Refrain

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.

This hymn for children is based on the first article of the Apostles' Creed: "Maker of heaven and earth." The English hymnwriter Cecil Frances Alexander was married to William Alexander, who became bishop of Ireland.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain  
English melody  
Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915

## 28. We Are Not Our Own

Brian Wren

Brian Wren, arr. Fred Graham

Yarnton, 8985.

(♩ = 72)  
Unison

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It begins with a treble clef and a 3/2 time signature. The tempo is marked as (♩ = 72). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: '1. We are not our own. Earth forms us, hu-man leaves on na-ture's grow-ing vine, fruit of man-y gen-er - a - tions, seeds of life di-vine.' The melody is simple and melodic, with a range of one octave. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures.

1. We are not our own. Earth forms us,  
human leaves on nature's growing vine,  
fruit of many generations,  
seeds of life divine.
2. We are not alone. Earth names us:  
past and present, peoples near and far,  
family and friends and strangers  
show us who we are.
3. Through a human life God finds us;  
dying, living, love is fully known,  
and in bread and wine reminds us:  
we are not our own.
4. Therefore let us make thanksgiving,  
and with justice, willing and aware,  
give to earth, and all things living,  
liturgies of care.
5. And if love's encounters lead us  
on a way uncertain and unknown,  
all the saints with prayer surround us:  
We are not alone.
6. Let us be a house of welcome,  
living stone upholding living stone,  
gladly showing all our neighbors  
we are not our own!

Brian Wren,  
for Drew University Liturgical Studies Program.