



*An Open & Affirming, A2A-Accessible to All
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

26 April 2026 – 10:30 AM
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

***indicates the congregation is invited to stand.
Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.**

PRELUDE *Called by Earth and Sky* Pat Mayberry

JAZZ ON HIGH • Aidan Santa Cruz, piano and vocals
Chris Charman, bass; Zack Olsen, drums

WELCOME Joliene Wade Gatlin

*GATHERING SONG "Jubilate, servite" Songs & Prayers from Taizé

**Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to ev'ry heart.
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!**

*CALL TO WORSHIP James Neef, liturgist

One: Shepherd God, guide your people to be stewards of the Earth.

All: Call us into the flock. Call us back to the Earth.

One: Help us to water the Tree of Life. Help us to plant and grow.

All: And lead us not into temptation, but away from destruction.

One: Yours is the kingdom and the garden.

**All: Guide us in our citizenship and stewardship so that we may continue to enjoy
your abundance into eternity.**

*HYMN 238 [hymn sheet] *Now the Green Blade Rises* NOËL-NOVELETTE

*PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS

**Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.
May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.
Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.**

*GREETING OF PEACE

SCRIPTURE *Acts 2:42-47* James Neef

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

ANTHEM *What a Wonderful World!* Bob Thiele & George Weiss

SERMON *What needs saving?* Joliene Gatlin

RESPONSE 581 [seated] WORLD PEACE PRAYER

**Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERTORY

Invitation

Offertory Music

Dedicated to You

Sammy Cahn/Saul Chaplin



*COVENANT

**We covenant with God and with each other:
to walk together in all God's ways as the Holy is revealed to us;
to give ourselves freely and without reserve to Jesus' ministry in this church;
to celebrate through worship God's amazing gifts of unity and diversity;
to take up Christ's mission around the world, striving for justice and peace;
to care for the earth and all her creatures, reconciling ourselves to them in love;
for God gives immeasurable grace into all life and every life.**

*HYMN 569 [hymn sheet] *Touch the Earth Lightly* TENDERNESS

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Set It Right Again* Ana Hernandez

Now the Green Blade Rises

238

John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.

Matt. 27:57-28:7; Luke 23:50-24:12

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
 2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
 3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
 Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
 Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
 Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
 Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain
 Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

John M. C. Crum, an English priest who was canon of
 Canterbury for fifteen years, wrote these words for this ancient
 French Christmas carol tune when it was included in the Oxford
 Book of Carols (1928).

Tune: NOËL NOUVELET 11.10.10.11.
 French noel, 15th century
 Harm. Martin F. Shaw, 1928

Touch the Earth Lightly

Shirley Erena Murray, 1992

Unison
Brightly

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 * 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

*The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Shirley Erena Murray's notes on this hymn state that the title line is borrowed from an Australian Aboriginal saying. The "clouds of disaster" mentioned in stanza 2 refer to nuclear testing by France, which New Zealand has protested at the United Nations many times.

Tune: TENDERNESS 5.5.10.D.
 Colin Gibson, 1992