

SERVICE OF THE WORD

April 6 & 9, 2022



*"Like a flower in the desert I had to grow in the cruelest weather, holding on to every drop of rain just to stay alive. But it's not enough to survive, I want to bloom beneath the blazing sun, and show you all the colors that live inside me, I want you to see what I can become."*

~ Christy Ann Martine



Emily Dickey @ienjoyhiking on Instagram

# Gathering Together

**CENTERING SONG**

**“MORNING HAS BROKEN”**

**UMH 145**

**GREETING**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**PAT CANE**

We join with the Earth  
And with each other,  
To bring new life to the land,  
To recreate the human community,  
To provide justice and peace,  
To remember our children,  
To remember who we are....

**We join together  
As many and diverse expressions  
Of one loving mystery,  
For the healing of the Earth  
And the renewal of Life.**

**\*LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE “LIKE THE FIRST HINT OF GREEN”**

**JENNIFER MCGOTHLIN**

As the first hint of green begins to peek through the barren ground  
As that little sprig grows into a healthy stem  
As that stem grows into a stalk and forms a bud  
As that bud slowly opens with each new day  
To form a yellow daffodil  
Let us be, like that first hint of green, renewed by the warm of the sun’s rays  
And ready to emerge with a new energy, ready to face the day.  
**We light this chalice to bring a glimmer of that warmth into our space.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**“FOR THE EARTH FOREVER TURNING” vs. 1&4**

**KIM OLER**

There is something in the sun and stars  
that makes me believe in you:

**their vastness, yes, but also their steadfastness, their constant presence,  
whether I can see the shape of them or not;**

Something in the rising and the setting  
that shows me the beautiful goodness  
of dark and light, of new and old, of welcoming and letting go.

In these most ordinary, everyday realities of your creation,  
made also astounding,

**[We are] reminded that you are at work in all things -  
and in [us]. Even in [us].**

**Let [us] be a witness like the sun and stars,  
an ordinary and astounding testament to Grace.**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a way comfortable to you and your neighbor, such as hand on heart, “namaste” hands, bow, peace sign, or a non-contact way of your own choosing.

Peace be with you!

**And also with you!**

Let us share this peace with one another.

*Service of the Word*

**STORY FOR ALL AGES**

**“WHEN THE WOLVES RETURNED”**

**DOROTHY HINSHAW PATENT**

*A story of renewal from an unexpected place, adapted for service by Bambi Hamby*

Yellowstone is a very special place.

More than a hundred years ago,

America turned Yellowstone into the world’s first national park.

For many years, the most important thing was that people enjoy the park.

Because wolves fed on the elk and deer that people liked, hunters were paid to kill the wolves. By 1926 the wolves were all gone. Safe from wolves, elk became more numerous as the years passed. Coyotes also increased in numbers, taking over the land and food that other small predators need to survive. The coyotes fed on newborn pronghorn, so every year, fewer pronghorn fawns survived.

Even the trees and shrubs in the park suffered because the wolves were gone.

The beavers that need aspens, cottonwoods, and willows also began to disappear.

Some scientists thought forest fires might fix Yellowstone, but they were wrong.

Scientists finally decided that returning the wolf might help solve the park's problems.

*S.Minister* Many people fought the idea of bringing back wolves, but they lost the battle.

When the wolves were brought back, they thrived and multiplied.

Wolves chased and killed the coyotes until half of them were gone.

With fewer coyotes hunting them, pronghorn and other prey animals survive more easily.

Grizzly bears chase wolves from their kills, helping themselves to quality food.

Wolves on the hunt keep the elk on the move, spreading out their feeding. Young aspens, cottonwoods, and willows can grow again, and the animals that need them are also coming back.

Returning the wolf is helping to make Yellowstone whole again.

A reading from Isaiah , chapter 43, verses 16 through 21.

Thus says the Lord  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

God is still speaking.  
**Hear the good news!**

**SONG FOR ILLUMINATION****“SPIRIT OF LIFE”****CAROLYN McDADE****SERMON****“THE LORD GIVES, AND THE LORD TAKES AWAY”****DR. LEE C. BARRETT**

Giver of being and freedom, thou who touches our lives in unforeseen ways, who unsettles our ease and upsets our self-satisfactions:

We wait in these moments of stillness to let the hidden processes of healing and growth do their silent work within us, and to let the quiet work of reconciliation be renewed among us.

Because we know that the ultimate issues of life—healing and growth, reconciliation and renewal—cannot be forced, neither by excess of activity nor by tumult of words, we seek out this stillness. We seek the quiet—the resting place—of our restless hearts.

Because we live with mystery, we trust that which is deeper than we know—which touches our hearts—which steadies us and rekindles our spirits—which, finally, in faith, may be named the love that has laid hold upon us, and will not let us go.

**Amen.**

## *Response to the Word*

**MEDITATION SONG**

**“RETURN AGAIN”**

**SHLOMO CARLEBACH**

**VISIO DIVINA**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

God speaks to us in many ways—through relationships, our experiences, sacred texts such as the Bible and many more. Visio divina, Latin for divine seeing, is praying with images to listen to God’s words. Like lectio divina, Latin for divine reading, Visio divina has four steps.

1. You are invited to study the photo that covers today’s bulletin—slowly, taking a first glance noting the colors, people, places and things.
2. Take a second, deeper, look. Where is there movement? What relationships do you see? Engage your imagination. Where are you in the artwork? What do you see from that perspective? What deeper meaning emerges?

3. Respond to the image with prayer. Did the image remind you of an experience, person or issue for which you'd like to offer thanksgiving or intercession? Offer that prayer to God.

4. Find your quiet center. Breathe deeply. Relax your shoulders, arms and legs. Rest in this quiet. Let God pray in you. God prays beyond words.

**MEDITATION SONG**

**“RETURN AGAIN”**

**SHLOMO CARLEBACH**

## *Going Forth as One*

**\*PRAYER**

**“COURAGE TO CONTINUE THE JOURNEY”**

**LYN COX**

Spirit of Life and Love, known by many names and yet fully known by none, we give thanks for this time and this place of renewal.

We give thanks for the ability to begin again: after the disaster, after the tragedy, after the loss, after meeting the challenge set before us.

Grant us the courage to continue on the journey, the courage to speak up for the well being of others and ourselves and the planet.

May we forgive each other when our courage falls short, and may we try again.

Grant us hearts to love boldly, to embody our faith and our values in living words and deeds.

May our hearts open to embrace humility, grace, and reconciliation.

Grant us the ability to learn and grow, to let the Spirit of Love and Truth work its transformation upon us and within us.

Grant us the spirit of hospitality, the willingness to sustain a fit dwelling place for the holy that resides in all being.

Grant us a sense of being at peace in the world, even as we are in motion.

Let us cultivate together the strength to welcome every kind of gift and all manner of ways to be on the journey together.

To this we add the silent prayers of our hearts. **Blessed be.**

**\*CLOSING SONG**

**“WAKE NOW MY SENSES”**

**\*EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE**

ELIZABETH SELLE JONES

**We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth,  
the warmth of community,  
or the fire of commitment.  
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**SENDING & POSTLUDE**

*Listen to God; Bridge the chasm.*

*You are welcome to keep your bulletin, but if not please place  
it on the table at the exit as you leave..*

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**Cover Quote** by Cristy Ann Martine <https://medium.com/@christyannmartine/flower-in-the-desert-a0196f73e999>

**Cover Art** by Emily Dickey @ienjoyhiking on Instagram

**Call to Worship** by Pat Cane from **Life Prayers**

**Chalice Lighting:** “Like the First Hint of Green” By Jennifer McGlothlin

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/first-hint-green>

**Responsive Prayer:** “Ordinary and Astounding” by Layton E Williams from *The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle Story for all ages: When the Wolves Returned* By Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, adapted for service by Bambi Hamby

**Reading:** “Giver of being and freedom” By George Kimmich Beach

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/giver-of-being>

**Visio Divina:** <https://episcopalprayer.wordpress.com/visio-divina/>

**Prayer:** “The Courage to Continue on the Journey” by Lyn Cox

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/courage-continue-journey/>

**\*The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.**

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**THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:**

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.