

First Congregational United Church of Christ

A Just Peace, Open and Affirming,
Multiracial and Multicultural Congregation
Intentionally Inclusive...Expect the Unexpected



“Take a Breath”

April 10, 2011 – Fifth Sunday in Lent
Earth Sunday

Ask an usher for large-print bulletins and/or hearing phones.

- CD recordings of today’s worship service are available following worship.
- Families and children are invited to sit together in the first two rows on the left hand side of the church facing the lectern.

Lent is our Christian season for intentional reflection, greater self-discipline, and, of course, prayer in preparation for Easter. The season began with Ash Wednesday and will culminate in the joyful and profound affirmations of Easter Sunday. You are invited to hold this Lenten season in personal ways as, Sunday by Sunday, as a congregation of disciples, we now move along the road to Jerusalem.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Elevation in G
Gary Fitzgerald

Dom Paul Benoit, O. S. B.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nan McConnell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Meg Maguire

*OPENING HYMN

Mothering God (insert, HOTM)

please see insert

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of all Creation, we confess that too often we have turned a deaf ear to warnings from scientists about the perilous condition of the oceans, the effects of mountaintop mining on streams and small communities, the dislocation and disease that will affect many millions of people as the climate changes. Too often our personal greed and waste have made us indifferent to the environmental consequences of our actions.

A Moment of Silence for Personal Reflection

Forgive us for our sins against your Creation. Stir us from despair and complacency. Renew in us a commitment to support the many positive actions that need our attention in order to turn environmental destruction into environmental resurrection. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SHARING OUR FAITH

“Hot Cross Buns”

Bonnie Hardy

WELCOME OF VISITORS

Nan McConnell

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

ANTHEM

Come Thou My Light

text by Hugh Thomson Kerr, setting by Peter Pindar Stearns

Text:

Come, Thou my Light, that I may see
Thy truth divine, Thy love so free.
Dispel the clouds of doubt and sin
And let the face of God shine in.

Come, Thou my Life, that I may be
Made one in living faith with Thee,
Thou living Source of life divine.

Come, Thou my Guide, that I may know
The way my seeking soul should go:
And never from Thee let me stray,
Thyself the Life, the Truth, the Way.

Come, Thou my King, and I will make
My heart a shrine, for Thy dear sake:
Until this Earthly life of mine
Shall be forever wholly Thine.

PROCLAIMING

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 37:l-14

Meg Maguire

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord God, you know.’ Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.’

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.” Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.’

***SERMON HYMN**

O Spirit Of God

NCH, #60

SERMON

Take a Breath

Gordon Forbes with Mari Castellanos

RESPONDING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Richard Griffis

A FIRST CHURCH GREEN ACTION LITANY

Leader: We are aware that God is the source of all that is. Our mere existence, as human beings among the creatures of earth, is a marvelous blessing and an immense responsibility.

Unison: **As Christians, we affirm that in Jesus Christ we are is a sacred covenant, one with another and with God, on a journey of life that we find expressed most profoundly in love.**

Voice 1: In care for one another.

Voice 2: In compassionate action toward those most vulnerable in society.

Voice 3: And in justice for all.

Leader: We are women, men and children whose location for gathering and

worship is in Washington, DC, a complex American city.

Unison: **We are challenged by the immensity of the environmental crisis in which we are often unwitting participants, and we seek in our faith tradition the fundamental strengths required in these years: stewardship, justice and creativity.**

Leader: Mindful that our care of the earth must be personal, deliberately a matter of community action, and always open to the guidance of the holy mystery in which we flourish or perish, we want to shape our responses to the environmental crisis by:

Voice 1: Seeking to live in sustainable relationship with creation, by pursuing life styles that minimize destructive impacts, and by instituting ways to serve the common good.

Voice 2: Seeking justice through public policies that assure a fair distribution of resources, by requiring that accountability always accompanies the exercise of power, and by providing special consideration for the most vulnerable in society.

Voice 3: Seeking delight in communion with all that is awesome and beautiful, by being eager to explore and build, and by always trying to find a radiant hint of the Holy One, our Creator, in our midst - and, in particular, in our anticipated new church at 10th and G.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gordon Forbes

Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name:

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

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

*CLOSING HYMN

God Our Author And Creator

NCH, #530

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Gavotte from Suite in G BWV 816

J. S. Bach

Gary Fitzgerald

The Lenten Journey

We welcome the Reverend Gordon Forbes as our preacher in the journey through Lent to Easter. Gordon was senior minister of Westmoreland Congregational UCC in Bethesda for 17 years. He and Janet are members of Christ Congregational UCC in Silver Spring.

Meg Maguire provides important leadership in our site development of the new church at 10th and G. Meg joined FCUCC in 1979. Like her husband Dale Ostrander, she is a very active member, currently serving on the Social Action Commission and the Green Action Committee.

TODAY

Green Action Second Sunday Offering: Our contributions made today - or sent to the church office this week - will support the work of the Greater Washington Interfaith Power & Light. GWIPL provides environmental education in congregations, offers practical suggestions for saving energy and going green, and mobilizes advocacy for responsible local and national environmental policies and practices.

FCC's Festive Green Action Fellowship Hour

Hosts: Jessica & Scott Prentice, Suzanne Snyder, Virginia Gaddis

We are always invited to conversation and refreshments at the table, and - as a spring bonus - we are invited to Nora Marsh's Green Thumb Table to purchase her homegrown young plants: zucchini, cucumber and tomatoes.

2:30 pm Cluster Meeting in First Trinity Lutheran's parlor

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, April 12

6:30 pm Council

Thursday, April 14

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 17

12:00 pm Bible Workbench

12:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

1:00 pm Worship Service - Palm Sunday
Preacher: Gordon Forbes

2:00 pm Fellowship Hour - Hosts: Kristy Goodfellow, Cindy Mazur, Marka & David Hayes

2:30 pm Nurture: "Poetry & Prayer: The Practice of Contemplative Reading", hosted by Bonnie Hardy and Christian Education Commission

Birthdays:

April 12 - Virginia Bushmiller, Patrick Francis Darling LaGamma;

April 15 - Lucille Dickinson, Judith Gray; April 16 - Jannie Champ

Green Action Tip: Worshiping at 1:00 PM has its advantages. It makes it easy to shop at the Dupont Farmers' Market, the city's largest and best, from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM, at 20th and Massachusetts Avenue. There are many environmental benefits from eating food produced by local farmers: less energy is used in processing and transporting; local agriculture deters suburban sprawl; sustainable farming protects soils and water, and fresh fruits and vegetables and grass-fed meat and dairy products promote human and animal health. Eat local and fresh!
www.freshfarmmarkets.org. - by Peter Byrne



- **Pat Ashbrook**
- **Brooks Pumphrey**
- **Regina Saxton**
- **Jannie Champ**
- **Jim Green**
- **Claricia Cummings**
- **Kathi Wolfe**
- **Alexis Joy Hayes**

Earth Sunday at First Church 2011

In celebration of Earth Sunday, you are challenged to make your own commitments to Earth Care. Listed here are some actions increasing numbers of people are taking in order to have a positively impact.

1. Purchase reusable grocery bags and remember to use them when you shop.
2. When you're out walking, pickup litter and dispose of it properly.
3. Replace standard light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
4. Run the dishwasher, washing machine and dryer only when they are full.
5. Adjust your thermostat - lower in winter, higher in summer.
6. Plug air leaks in windows and doors to increase energy efficiency.
7. Replace old appliances with energy efficient models.
8. Walk, bike, carpool or use public transportation whenever possible.
9. Drive slower. Energy efficiency decreases 2% for every mph over 60 mph.
10. Recycle and buy minimally packaged goods as much as possible.
11. Install low-flow showerheads and reduce the length of showers.
12. Insulate your water heater and keep it at 120 degrees.
13. Get in touch with your roots. Plant a tree.
14. Enroll in paperless billing for utilities and credit cards.
15. When feasible, print from computers on both sides of paper.
16. Unplug electronic devices when not using them. Up to 75% of energy is consumed by "phantom draw" when devices are off. Plug into power strips with switches.
17. Become better informed about local and national issues of environmental justice.
18. Speak out! Advocate for strong climate change and energy legislation in Congress.

Thanks to Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light, Environmental Defense Fund, World Wildlife Fund and Green Action committed FCC members for contributions to this list.

Ministers – Members of the Church

Lenten Preaching Minister – The Reverend Gordon Forbes
Associate Minister for CE – The Reverend Dr. Bonnie Hardy

Director of Music - Gary Fitzgerald

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HYMN

Mothering God (HOTM)

Jean Janzen, creator of the text for *Mothering God*, is a life-long Mennonite poet. This work is based on her study of Julian of Norwich, the medieval English mystic and author of *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, regarded as the first book written in the English language by a woman. The tune is from 17th century France, adapted by Ana Hernandez for use with this text, and harmonized by Gary Fitzgerald. The hymn first appeared in this form in *Voices Found: Women In The Church's Song*, a hymnal supplement published by Church Publishing devoted to the contribution of women from the earliest times to the present.



Mo - ther - ing God, You gave me birth
Mo - ther - ing Christ, You took my form,
Mo - ther - ing Spi - it, nur - tur - ing One,



in the bright morn - ing of this world.
of - fer - ing me Your food of light,
in arms of pa - tience hold me close,



Cre - a - tor, Source of e - v'ry breath,
Grain of life, and grape of love,
so that in faith I root and grow



You are my rain, my wind, my sun.
Your ve - ry Bo - dy for my peace.
un - til I flow - er, un - til I know.



Easter Lily Order Form

My (our) names (s)

In Honor of

OR

In Memory of

Number of plants to order at \$13.00 a piece _____

*Enclose payment - Write a check to: **First Trinity Lutheran Church***

*Please mark "**Easter Lily**" on the check memo*

1] drop check and order form in the offering

2] mail them to the church at 309 E St., NW., Washington, DC 20001

3] send the requisite information to Jennie Hunt – jhunt@cpcug.org

Please respond by the 10th of April

*Money received beyond the cost of lilies needed
will be added to the Flower Fund*