

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves  
United Church of Christ

*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

October 11, 2020

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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## *Thought for Meditation:*

*I have always loved the forest, but it was not until  
I actually lived in the forests of Gombe  
that I came to realize, in the most vivid way,  
that the forest is a living, breathing entity of intertwining,  
interdependent life forms.*

*It is perfect, complete, a powerful presence and so much  
more,*

*so very much more, than the sum of its parts.*

*—Jane Goodall*



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Dear worshippers:

Today's worship service is based on our year-long Journey Thru Creation program. Segments of this service come from our initial webinar with storyteller Valerie Tutson and Ecological Advocate Jean Ponzi. It also features our own Logos Readers (Andrea Welnick, Jan Barnes and Leon Burke, III) plus the Oïkos Ensemble. I extend special thanks to videographer Ian Didriksen and technical director and editor, Terry Peterson.

The service is best viewed as a video presentation. This bulletin may serve as a guide to worship, however, the way the service is created makes everything self-explanatory as it is being watched. It is experiential worship that may feel a little different from our normal Sunday service. The purpose of our grant is to explore new ways of worshipping. This is one such new approach. I hope you find it meaningful.

Blessings,  
Cliff Aerie

## Order of Worship

<b>Prelude</b>	“Forest Muse”	Oïkos Ensemble
<b>Welcome</b>		Rev. Aerie
<b>Call to Worship</b>		Logos Readers
God shouts out your name—inviting you discover your story in the midst of Earth’s story. Me?		
God whispers your name—inviting you to dream, to wonder, and be filled with awe. Me?		
Yes you! Each of you! All of you! Anything is possible. All of us? Young, old, sister, brother, cousin, friend, parent, child?		
Yes! Breathe in the Spirit and expect the impossible.  All of us? The proud and the strong, the lost and the searching, the joyous and the sad?		
Yes! Breathe in the Spirit and expect the impossible. All of us? Word-arrangers and finger-painters?		
All of us? Rope-jumpers and slow-walkers? Belly-laughers and soul-singers? Mountain climbers and backyard gardeners?		
Yes you! All of you! Breathe in the Spirit and expect the impossible. Here and now God breaks into our experience and calls us into the midst of creation, into the very heart of life.  Yes! All of us. Here and now!		
<b>Hymn</b>	“Give Me a Clean Heart	Oïkos Ensemble
Give me a clean heart, so I may serve you. God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you. For I’m not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart, and I’ll follow you.		
<b>Grace Note</b>	“The Four Directions”	Valerie Tutson
<b>Not for Children Only</b>	“Earth Stories”	Valerie Tutson & Jean Ponzi
<b>Music Meditation</b>	“Live the Way”	Oïkos Ensemble
<b>Scripture</b>	Genesis 1: Creation Narrative	Logos Readers
The creation story in Genesis is familiar to just about everyone. Handed down orally for generations, it’s a wonderfully poetic narrative giving detail to each phase of creation. For centuries people have read the text about Adam and Eve, and their descendants being granted dominion over creation—that our task is to subdue the earth.  We’ve taken these two words, “dominion” and “subdue,” out of context. As permission to plunder the earth for our own benefit and profit. Let’s pause and reimagine the Genesis creation narrative . . . As our responsibility to be stewards of God’s world. As our call to be caretakers of God’s original blessing.		

Listen closely as we retell the ancient, yet timeless story . . . A story reimagined for our time, and our world today.

[What follows on video is a contemporary reimagining of the Genesis creation narrative.]

**Today's message** "Earth Story as Our Story" Jean Ponzi & Valerie Tutson

[Webinar excerpts by Jean Ponzi and Valerie Tutson]

**Jazz Prayer** "Earth Walk" Oïkos Ensemble

Come with me and take my hand. We'll travel deep into the center of this land.  
In a mystery we'll hear the sound: of a heart beat, of an earth beat.

Journey to a sacred place. Embrace the greens and blues that offer grace.  
It's a mystery for all to share. It's a heart beat. Yes, an earth beat.

Dance together, play your songs. Celebrate the journey, come along.  
Create a legacy for all to share, with your heart beat: to an earth beat.

Open your eyes and hear the sounds. Creation beckons, hope abounds.  
Let your heart beat with an earth beat, on your earth walk.

**Lord's Prayer** Logos Readers

Our Creator in heaven and earth, holy is your name.  
May your Way be ours, your Mystery revealed, Your truth echoes throughout all the cosmos.

Provide us bread for our journey this day. Forgive our missteps . . . Miscalculations and mess-ups,  
So that we might know how to forgive others who have mistreated us.

Be with us . . . Be with us . . . Be with us in the struggle of our egos.  
And free us from the bondage . . . The chains of powers . . .  
The evils that tempt us to stray from your path.

Let our prayer of praise ring true:  
The universe in glorious majesty belongs to You — infinitely! Amen.

**Hymn** "As One" Oïkos Ensemble

The world can no longer be a place where fear and hatred abound.  
If love is our guide, peace shall reside, and unity bind us as one.

The world no longer should be defaced and scarred by garbage and greed.  
Let's clean up this mess, ease the distress, embracing our planet as one.

The world God gave us should be a place where no one wanders alone.  
Let's open the door, strangers no more, together and living as one.

**Closing Thought** Rev. Aerie

**Blessing** "Heart Chant" Jean Ponzi

**Postlude** "Dance of the Aegean" Oïkos Ensemble



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