



**COMMUNITY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

REACH, GROW, SEND **WITH GOD'S LOVE**

**April 25, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.  
Festival of God's Creation**

*Prayers for all of us during this time we are physically separated one from another.*

**Welcome**

Pastor Riva

**Silent Meditation** *(Let us all be in silent meditation as the candles are lit)*

**Prelude**

*“Let All Things Now Living”*

arr. Bradley Sowash

**Call to Worship**

Jan & Les Johnson

*Leader: Christ, we knew we would find you in gardens. We knew we would find you by water. We knew we would find you on mountaintops.*

**Reader: But Jesus, we never expected to find you in a manger, a marketplace, among outcasts, at dinner parties or on a cross. We expected to find you in a tomb.**

*Leader: And we still struggle to believe we can find you in our midst. We still struggle to believe that the matter of this world really matters to you.*

**Reader: Yet, you show up when people with messy lives gather to eat a real meal in this real world. You show up in degraded and scarred places, where toxicity gives way to healing. You show up in words of repentance and forgiveness amongst those who are broken and those who break.**

*Leader: God, we are the broken. God, we are the ones who break. Make us healers as you heal us.*

**Reader: Holy Spirit, as we gather here today, bind us in creaturely solidarity with you and with all of creation. Impel us to permeate the world with justice, equity, sustainability and hope.**

*Leader: May we join you in co-creating your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.*

**ALL: Amen.**

**Hymn #92**

*“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

- v. 1 For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
- v. 2 For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
- v. 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
- v. 4 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

- v. 5 For thy church, that evermore lifteth holy hands above,  
offering upon every shore her pure sacrifice of love;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
- v. 6 For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given,  
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

### Opening Prayer

Jan & Les Johnson

*Reader: Please join me in prayer:*

**All: All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, siblings harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.**

### Children's Moment

Pastor Nancy

**Gift of Song**            *"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"*  
Naomi Jones, soloist

Lloyd Larson

**Scripture**                            John 10:11-18 (NRSV)

Jan & Les Johnson

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**Meditation**                        *"The sheep, hired hands, and the wolf"*

Pastor Nancy

**Offertory Music**    *"They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"*    Peter Scholtes/ Mark Hayes

### Offertory Prayer

Pastor Nancy

*Pastor: Shepherd of all, by laying down your life for the flock you reveal your love for all. Lead us from the place of death to the place of abundant life, so guided by your care for us, we may rightly offer our lives, our money, and our deeds in love for you and our neighbors. In your name we pray,*

**ALL: Amen.**

### Centering Meditation

Pastor Riva

### Lord's Prayer

**Our (Creator/God/Mother/Father\*) in heaven, Holy is your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*\*Please use whichever name connects you deeply to the Divine.*

**Hymn #122** "God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"

- v. 1 God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars,  
How does the creature say Awe, How the the creature say Praise?
- v. 2 God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast,  
How does the creature say Woe, How does the creature say Save?
- v. 3 God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave,  
How does the creature say Grace, How does the creature say Thanks?
- v. 4 God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal,  
How does the creature say Care, How does the creature say Life?
- v. 5 God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook,  
How does the creature say Love, How does the creature say Peace?
- v. 6 God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart,  
How do your children say Joy, How do your children say Home?

**Benediction**

Pastor Riva

**Postlude**

"Sanctify Us By Thy Goodness"

J. S. Bach

**Announcements**

Pastor Riva

**Worship Participants**

**Readers:** Jan & Les Johnson

**Gift of Song:** Naomi Jones

**Worship Team**

**Lead Pastor:** Pastor Riva Tabelisma

**Teaching Elder:** Rev. Dr. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud

**Music:** Dan Ritter

**Audio & Video Recording:** Andy Bixler/James Bordewick/Les Johnson

**Video Editing:** James Bordewick/Riva Tabelisma

Worship Resources:

1. UMC Global Ministries © 2021, <https://umcmmission.org/earthkeepers/>
2. Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato si'* (2015) <https://reflections.yale.edu/article/crucified-creation-green-faith-rising/poem-praye-r-our-earth>
3. <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=89>

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**Antiracism Book Study Continues:** The Sunday Adult Ed group will be finishing up the book by Ibram X. Kendi, *How to be an Antiracist*, with the following schedule:

May 2nd, 9am on zoom--Chapters 14-15

May 16th, 9am on zoom--Chapters 16, 17, 18

The link for the zoom will be available in the weekly email invitation to worship. For more information, contact Pastor Nancy Victorin-Vangerud, [nvictorinvangerudoi@hamline.edu](mailto:nvictorinvangerudoi@hamline.edu)

## Centering Prayer

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the ocean and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering wind, for the trees and green grass.

We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendor of fields of golden wheat, and taste autumn's fruit, rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers.

Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty; and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thorn bush is aflame with your glory.

For each new dawn is filled with infinite possibilities for new beginnings and new discoveries. Life is constantly changing and renewing itself. In this new day of new beginnings with God, all things are possible. We are restored and renewed in a joyous awakening to the wonder that our lives are and, yet, can be.

Gentle Shepherd, You guide us in right paths, You lead us in the ways of righteousness, but we have allowed our anger, our rage, our greed, and at times even hate, to direct our paths. We have overreacted, we have taken more than our share, we have despised others that seem to have it all. Forgive us, God, for not following Your ways. Forgive us for not remembering that we are Your sheep, and You are our Shepherd. Forgive us when we have not listened for Your voice and instead have acted in the ways of the world. Guide us back to Your path, to loving You and loving our neighbors. Help us to unclench our fists and lend out our hands in hope and healing, forgiveness and love.

Creator God, you know your children. You know our disappointments and our discomfort. You know our longings and our needs. Help us to see what you are making new in heaven and on earth, in our lives and in our communities that we may participate in your healing work. Through Jesus Christ our brother who taught us to pray...

### Lord's Prayer

**Our (*Creator/God/Mother/Father\**) in heaven, Holy is your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### *Celebrating the life of Dr. Gary Good*

**Visitation:** April 30, 2021 4-7pm at the Washburn-Mcreavy Hillside Chapels. Reservation is needed. Contact Washburn-Mcreavy Chapels to reserve a time to visit.

**Memorial Service:** May 1, 2021, 11am at Community UMC.

Attendees are limited to 42 people. Contact Pat Good (email: [goodxo15@comcast.net](mailto:goodxo15@comcast.net), cellphone: 651-348-6688) for details.

The memorial service will be in zoom for those who would like to be 'in' the memorial service virtually.

Time: May 1, 2021 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/591160482?pwd=QzFoNEdYT1lOK2dscnBwb1BMaENRdzog>

Meeting ID: 591 116 0482

Passcode: community

## Coming up this week:

### Sunday, April 25

- 10:00 a.m. [Worship – Worship Broadcast \(FB\)](#)
- 11:00 a.m. [Zoom Fellowship](#)
- 7:00 p.m. Children's Sunday School

### Monday, April 29

- 5:30 p.m. Community Meal (Parking Lot)

### Tuesday, April 27

- 2:00 p.m. Eve Circle

### Wednesday, April 28

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study – John Wesley Room

### Friday, April 30

- 10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga – John Wesley Room

### Sunday, May 2

- 9:00 a.m. [Antiracism Book Study \(Zoom\)](#)
- 10:00 a.m. [Worship – Worship Broadcast \(FB\)](#)
- 11:00 a.m. [Zoom Fellowship](#)
- 7:00 p.m. Children's Sunday School

**Plant Sale:** Community United Methodist Church is holding their Annual Plant Sale, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 9-5 and May 8<sup>th</sup> from 9-1. There will be Patio containers, hanging baskets of several varieties and colors, also annuals and bedding plants, all available to browse through and to purchase on site or pre-order. For questions and to pre-order, call 763 202 0796 no later than April 25th. There will be a list of items and [order form](#) on the church website [www.communitymethodistchurch.org](http://www.communitymethodistchurch.org). Orders will be available for pick-up both Friday and Saturday. In addition, there will be the usual low cost food available by box lunch. We will be needing volunteers to help make this a great fundraiser for our church.

**Plant Sale Volunteers** will be needed on **Thursday May 6** to put the pre-orders together (9-1) and Friday 9-5 and Saturday 9-1 for the on-site sale. You can volunteer for a morning or afternoon or just a couple of hours. Let Mary Tholkes know your availability by calling 763-202-0796 or emailing [marytholkes@gmail.com](mailto:marytholkes@gmail.com). This is one of our largest fund raisers of the year for the work of the church, so your support is much appreciated.

**Church Gift Shop:** If you wish to buy items from the church gift shop, contact Pat Good (phone 651-348-6688). These items can be picked up on Wednesday mornings at 11 A.M.

### Giving Options:

Electronic Giving has two options. One is using the app **Give+** on your smartphone (Android or iPhone), or via the church website. Check out the videos at:

<https://communitymethodistchurch.org/online-giving/>.

Otherwise, mailing in a check works great (950 Gould Ave NE, Columbia Heights, 55421).

**Emergency Phone Number:** If you need to contact the pastors for an emergency that cannot wait until the office phone is checked, we have added an emergency phone number: 612-757-7115. This is a cell phone that goes to the pastor on call.

**Be part of the worship service:** Email Pastor Riva: [leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org](mailto:leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org) for details.

**Tech support ministry:** If you need help in checking out your electronic devices in order to participate in our virtual service, send us ([office@communitymethodistchurch.org](mailto:office@communitymethodistchurch.org) or [leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org](mailto:leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org)) a note and we can send someone to come check it out for you (following safety guidelines and protocol).



## ***Our Vision***

*We are an urban, intergenerational, inclusive, and welcoming Christian fellowship woven into the fabric of our community.*

## ***Community UMC's Statement of Reconciliation:***

Community United Methodist Church of Columbia Heights believes that we are all children of God, individuals of sacred worth, created in God's image with our many differences, and that God loves all people. We recognize that God's love is not limited by boundaries. Therefore, we welcome and affirm people of all ages, races, ethnicities, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, socio-economic statuses, physical capabilities, or mental abilities.

We believe that prejudice, hatred, or discrimination directed toward any individual or group is contrary to the life, spirit, and teaching of Jesus Christ. We have vowed to accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression. Therefore, we shall work to eliminate prejudice and discriminatory practices within ourselves and our community, and to show God's grace.

We proclaim ourselves a Reconciling Congregation and welcome all who seek a relationship with God.

*Adopted November 3, 2019*

## ***Our Staff***

Lead Pastor	Pastor Riva Tabelisma
Teaching Pastor	Rev. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud
Ministers	All the Congregation
Office Manager	Martha Bentley
Music Director	Dan Ritter
Bell Choir Director	Karen Schneider

**Church Office Phone:** 763-788-9009

**Emergency/Pastor Contact Phone Number:** 612-757-7115

**Pastor Riva Tabelisma's email:**

[leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org](mailto:leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org)

**Pastor Nancy Victorin-Vangerud's email:**

[nvictorinvangerud01@hamline.edu](mailto:nvictorinvangerud01@hamline.edu)

**Office Email:** [office@communitymethodistchurch.org](mailto:office@communitymethodistchurch.org)

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