

**St. Vincent United Church of Christ**  
**Earth Day Sunday – April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson  
Welcome to our Church Musician – Penny Sallade



**Musical Interlude**  
**Ring of the Bell**  
**Pastor's Welcome:**  
**Prelude Music**  
**\* Call To Worship:**

**Pastor:** We join with the earth and pray that new life will come to the land; that the health of water will be restored; that the air will be refreshed; forests will be renewed; plants and animals will be protected from harm.

**People:** We join with the earth and with each other to celebrate the seas; to rejoice in the sunlight; to sing the song of the stars.

**Pastor:** Let us recall our destiny as the heart and hands and voices of Christ so that we might renew our spirits to do good.

**People:** We join with the earth and with each other to strengthen the human community; to promote justice and peace; to provide a place that is safe for our children.

**Pastor:** Let us rejoice in all of life's blessings as we affirm our faith together.

**Affirmation of Faith:**

**We have faith in one God, one source of life for the whole earth and all its creatures. We believe in the goodness of that source of life and claim our partnership with God to take care of his creation. We believe that, in Christ, we have been shown the way to care for all life with love and compassion and that this is our given purpose. We seek to fulfill that purpose so that our children and our children's children will live in our legacy of love. May God's Holy Spirit lead us to live in harmony for the benefit of all the generations yet to come. So be it. Amen.**

*Now, let us sing together our first hymn.*

**\* Hymn: Morning Has Broken** (Methodist Hymnal # 145)

*Please be seated.*

**Call to Prayer:** On this Earth Day Sunday, let us be mindful of our need for healing – for trees, plants, crops, and forests; sources of water and air, climate and weather. Let us pray for clean energy, for recycling and moderate personal consumption. For the proper use of chemicals and disposal of toxic waste. Let us pray for animals, especially those who are endangered species. And let us pray for humankind that we will be good stewards of it all so that the earth and all its inhabitants may live in unity and harmony.

**Unison Prayer:**

**Creator God, we thank you for all of creation. We ask Your forgiveness where we have failed to be just stewards. And we now ask for Your guidance in restoring the face of the earth. May we learn to live in harmony, safety and just sharing of resources among all so that we achieve the kingdom of God. Amen.**

**Assurance:** God calls us to take care of the earth and one another – especially where there is suffering. Let us dedicate our lives to being kind and loving to all those we encounter as we aim to fulfill this calling. With gratitude, let us sing our response ...

**Sung Response: # 2026, "Halleluja"** (praise book)

**Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halleluja!, Halleluja!**

**Scripture Reading:**

Liturgist: Todd Sutter

We now turn our hearts and minds to God's Holy Scripture. Today we are reading Psalm # 104 that praises our Creator God who provides all good things for our lives.

**Let us pray:** Holy God, open our minds and hearts so that we may hear your message to us in this psalm and live according to your ways every day. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Reading: Psalm 104**

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment.  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot,  
you ride on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.  
You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.  
At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.  
They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys to the place that you appointed for them.

You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.  
You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst.  
By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.  
From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.  
You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.

The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.  
In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees.  
The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the coney.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows it's time for setting.

You make darkness, and it is night when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.  
When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens.  
People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.  
Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.  
There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.  
When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.  
When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works - who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth and let the wicked be no more.

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Praise the LORD!

**Liturgist:** Here ends the read of God's Holy Scripture. May God bless us with understanding, and may we show our understanding in the way we live our lives. Amen.

Now, let's sing our middle hymn, # 31, "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

**Hymn: # 31, "All Things Bright and Beautiful"**

**Message: "Holy Creation!"**

**Sung Response: # 2025, "As The Deer"**

**Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer**

**Sung Response: #2203, "In His Time" (verse 2)**

**Offering Invitation:** God has called us to work together as a community of faith to bring about his purpose for good. Let us show God that we are ready to answer that call as we present with joy our morning offering.

**Offertory**

**\* Sung Response: # 785, "We Give You But Your Own"**

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be. All that we have is yours alone - we give it gratefully.**

**\* Prayer of Dedication: Holy God, we are grateful for your gifts and now return to you a portion for your blessing. We dedicate our offering in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**\* Hymn: # 28, "For the Beauty of the Earth"**

**\* Benediction:**

May we go forth to fulfill God's call to care for all of creation and protect those who are vulnerable; to plant seeds of good and kindness; and to bring justice to those in need. We rejoice in this work, for God goes with us, helping us in all things and in all ways. Glory be to God! Amen.

**\* Sung Response: # 77, "Lord, Dismiss Us" (verse 1)**

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing – fill our hearts with joy and peace. Let us each your love possessing – triumph in redeeming grace. Oh, refresh us oh, refresh us – traveling through wilderness.**

**\* Postlude Music**