

“Earth Day - Walking The Talk,” by Gary Gates

Order of Service

April 24, 2022

Prelude: “Sonata” by Handel, performed by Amber.

Welcome and Announcements: Rev. Matt Aspin

Opening Music: “Keepers of the Earth” Words and music by Joyce Poley. Sung by the Prairie Choir.

Chalice Lighting: “Like the First Hint of Green,” by Jennifer McGlothlin.

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.

Story for All Ages

Children’s Recessional: by Joyce Poley

As you go on your way, may you be filled with gladness.
Go in joy, go in joy!
May fortune bless your day with peace and loving kindness.
Go in love, go in love.

Silent meditation

Reading: “Bring Us Close to the Earth,” by Lyn Cox.

Spirit of Life,
Ground of our being,
Root of unified mystery
Growing into myriad branches of expression,
Bring us together now.
Bring us close to the earth,
Ear to the whispering grass,
Quietly,
Attentively,
Waiting with slow breaths,
Listening for the very stones to cry out
With their rocky stories of
Tectonic plates meeting and parting meeting

Reading (continued)

Their mineral memories of
Hadean days, molten rocks flowing and joining
Their ancient legends of
Stars born out of the collapse of other stars
Help us to re-member
Help us to piece together
Our one-ness with matter,
Our one-ness that matters.
With one more deep breath,
May we rise, star-stuff walking and rolling
Across the surface of an impossible blue-green planet.
May we join together to heal what is divided.
May we find wholeness within, without, among, between.
Eternal Source, Seed of the Universe, help us to grow peace.
So be it. Blessed be. Amen.

Presentation: “Earth Day - Walking The Talk,” by Gary Gates

Discussion

Offering and Offertory: “It’s From Heaven,” by Mike Carubia, performed by Amber.

Closing Words:

Closing Music: #1064 (STJ) “Blue Boat Home” Flute descant composed by Karlos Moser, performed by Nancy Wunderlin.

Joys and Concerns: Welcome Guests and Visitors

Greet Your Neighbor

Prairie UU Society Bond of Union

We, the members of Prairie, wish to associate ourselves together in a religious community which affirms that we share a common humanity, that we need one another, and that our futures are inescapably bound together. Together we would expand our intellectual horizons, enrich our sensory experiences, and deepen our emotional sensitivities. We would sharpen our ethical awareness and broaden our sense of social responsibility. We would stand tall in our quest for integrity of life, yet not at others’ expense. As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world, and with one another.

Announcements

We are sharing our offering for this quarter with The Catalyst Project, a small community of up to three single moms and their young kids who have experienced homelessness. Catalyst offers collaborative problem-solving, trauma-informed mentoring, and client-specific therapeutic intervention. The Catalyst Project was founded on the belief that the wisdom of those grossly mistreated by our society and its discriminatory systems is essential to creating a society that serves all of its people.

Prairie's Annual Retreat begins this Friday! Join the fun starting at 6:00pm at Bethel Horizons. Friday night offers a campfire with s'mores, rock painting, charades, and stargazing. The weekend continues with arts and crafts, outdoor activities, meditation, discussions about Prairie, and a lot of good discussions with your Prairie friends.

We raised \$9,509 in the Service Auction! Thank you to all of you for making the service auction a success. We've contacted all of you who participated. There are still items left! A full list is available on Prairie's website in the For Current Members section.

Spiritual Exploration Group will meet every 2 weeks, on a drop-in basis, with rotating discussion leaders. No preparation or reading is required; it will be an opportunity to quiet our minds, share what's going on in our hearts, experience presence together, and deepen our sense of community. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 5, at 1:00 p.m. Please join us!

Prairie's Spring Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 22, at 10:00 a.m. We'll start the day with a short service, then move into meeting. We'll be electing Board and Nominating Committee members along with other business.

Prairie Board Officers and Staff

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
2010 Whenona Dr. Madison, WI 53711
608-271-8218 www.uuprairie.org

Rev. Matt Aspin, Minister

Rachel Long, President

Lynn Currie, Vice President

Suzanne Gernandt, Treasurer

Dan Proud, Secretary

Dan Klock, Congregational Administrator

Alice Mandt, Director of Religious Education

John (Raju) Eliganti, Custodian

Upcoming Services

Sunday, May 1, 2022

Retreat April 29 to May 1 at Bethel Horizons

9:15am: Key Log Ceremony as part of the Prairie Retreat

Sunday, May 8, 2022

Service

Sunday, May 15, 2022

Service by Rev. Matt Aspin

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Parish Meeting

Sunday, May 29, 2022

Service

Sunday, June 5, 2022

Bridging Service

Sunday, June 12, 2022

Service

Sunday, June 19, 2022

Service

Sunday, June 26, 2022

Service

Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.