

Climate Change Sabbath

Nebraska UCC Board of Directors

Call To Worship

Rev. Lisa Hadler

One: God we gather in the midst of your creation, to build each other up in the faith you have given us.

Many: God we come, not alone but as part of your community.

One: We come from isolated lives and self-centered living seeking community, so that together we might be kept safe in God's love.

Many: God we come, not alone but as part of your community.

One: As we build together may we pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ open our eyes to see you.

Many: God we come, not alone but as part of your community.

One: No one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have – Jesus Christ. Who takes our anxious thoughts and the worries that blind our sight.

Many: God we come, not alone but as part of your community.

One: Rescue us dear God from the tumult of our busy lives. Bind us together as we breathe your quiet presence.

Many: God we come, not alone but as part of your community.

One: Heavenly God, you who are community shelter us; Christ before us and behind us, Holy Spirit deep within us.

Many: God we come, not alone but as part of your community.

Invocation

Rev. Rebecca McNeil

“Morning Has Broken”

Rev. Katie Miller

Words by Eleanor Farjeon

“Bunessan” Trad. Scottish Gaelic

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where Their feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Fay Ann Blaylock

Adapted from UCC Litany of Environmental Confession

One: God, you created our planet, the birds, fish, and other animals and you saw all that you had created and called it good. God of life, you also formed us, the human family to be your co-regents in ruling over the works of your hands, and to act compassionately and gently to all forms of life.

Many: Remind us, O God, and help us to change.

One: We confess that we often forget that we are utterly dependent upon you and interdependent with the rest of your creation. We confess that instead of acting compassionately and gently, we have instead over-used and abused creation, forgetting that our lifestyles impact others around the globe.

Many: Forgive us, O God, and help us to change.

One: We confess that we have not done enough to protect our planet. We confess that we have failed to insist that our government act urgently and swiftly on climate. We confess that we, as

consumers, have not held companies accountable for their reckless pollution and carbon consumption, nor have we worked hard enough to limit our own consumption and pollution.

Many: Forgive us, O God, and help us to change.

One: God of wisdom, help us understand that whatever we do to the web of life we do to ourselves. God of power, help us acknowledge that we must act now and wake up to our moral obligation to the future of the planet, which you have entrusted to our hands.

Many: Forgive us O God, and help us to change.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Melanie Miller

Scripture

Rev. David Butz

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-17

Matthew 25:37-40

“It’s a New Day” (Psalm 104)

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Refrain: Breathe into the earth, Holy One, and renew us
It’s a new day

The whole planet prospers in your care
Thriving within your design
Your own trees, your rivers and your birds
Everything is satisfied

All of life in rhythm with your breath
Everything is in its place
All our days, our nights, our seasons turn
Life and death and holy change

We will sing for you for all our lives
Sing as long as we have breath
We will sing for you for all our lives
Sing as long as we have breath

Sermon: “If even one person, Lord?”

Rev. Jessica Palys

Offering

Rev. Scott Jones

Today’s offering is being collected for UCC Disaster Ministries. Visit www.ucctcm.org/donate to make an offering.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Les Parmenter

“The Earth is Full” (Psalm 33)

Words and music by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Refrain: The earth is full of covenant love The earth is full of promise
The earth is full of covenant love The earth is full of promise

From the sky-breath of life to the ancient ocean floor
Our joy is in our hoping
Sing a song of the waves and the patience of the shore.
Our joy is in our hoping

It’s the seed in the soil come to fertilize the world
Our joy is in our waiting
Sing a song of the roots and the stem as it uncurls
Our joy is in our waiting

It’s the body of God and it's pregnant with the Christ
Our joy is in the process
Sing a song of the heart as we ripen into life
Our joy is in our process

Benediction

Rev. Coral Parmenter