

Earth Sunday April 24 2016



Living with Respect for Creation

A Reflection by Peggy Jensen

To all those who might read this by email. I had some notes last Sunday and they are here for you to see.

I spoke from my heart after the facts and information.

Spring is a time of Transformation and we are in this time of Transformation in the church. Both our denominations are seeking new ways to be relevant to our changing times. This faith community is in a time of transition and transformation. We must learn to respect and accept what Creation teaches us about change.

Prayer: Creator, thank you for all the natural beauty that covers this island, our home. Through word and song we praise you. Through our actions we respect you. We need to be ambassadors for creation by re-using, recycling and restoring the resources we take for granted. Help us to respect ourselves and one another as we live with respect for all of Creation. Amen

Earth Day April 22nd.

Earth Day was officially recognized on Friday April 22nd and it was first celebrated in 1970. I was surprised that this is the 46th anniversary of this event.

According to a quick web search I learned that:

Earth Day is a day designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. It was founded by U.S. Senator [Gaylord Nelson](#) as an environmental teach-in held on April 22, 1970 and was essentially an American event.

- no central governing body
- Earth Day worked because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level.
- 20 million demonstrators and the thousands of schools and local communities participated.
- now more than 175 countries participate

Earth Day organized itself because the earth and the environment is something we all care about and we know we need to look after it. What has changed in the 46 years that we have been recognizing Earth Day?

- **Global warming**; 10% of world surface is ice and rapidly changing.
- Glacier's are melting. Kilimanjoro could be extinct by 2020
- In the Andes of Peru the disappearing glaciers affect crop irrigation, drinking water supply and hydro electric power too.
- Increase in the CO2 in the atmosphere.

I am preaching to the converted and committed who are living with respect for creation, Is there something more we can do to live with respect for creation?

We have a sacred trust from God.

The United Church Creed uses the phrase “ to live with respect for creation.....

The “Song of Faith” was a more elaborate explanation of faith statements. It was rather lyrical and very wordy but I liked some of the phrases and ideas:

We sing of God the Creator, Maker and Source of all that is.

Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery, of all living things, diverse and interdependent, of complex patterns of growth and evolution, of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls,

Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God the Creator who is both in creation and beyond it. All parts of creation, animate and inanimate, are related. All creation is good

We sing of the Creator, who made humans to live and move and have their being in God.

In and with God, we can direct our lives toward right relationship with each other and with God. We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life.

We can grow in wisdom and compassion. We can recognize all people as kin.

A new commandment: “ **Love one another as I have loved you**”

- Respecting one another is a way to live with respect for creation.
- God cares for each one of us unconditionally.

We can learn lessons from creation!

- Observe the bursting forth of Spring. Buds, flowers, leaves!
- **Transformation**
- Change is a natural part of life
- We adapt to change all the time

Have you ever tried to stop the changes of nature?

Have you wanted to stop the changes in the church?

- The church has changed since 1970 some changes have been very s-l-o-w
- Church has changed , culture and society has changed
- If we do not change we will die or die anyway but important to try.

Let us respect and accept what Creation teaches us about change.Thanks be to God our creator.