

**Mill Woods United Church
May 03, 2020, 10:30 am
Livestreamed with Facebook Live**

Easter Four

Worship leader: Rev. Ian Kellogg
Music leaders: Bryan LeGrow & Len Penner
Video and PPT: Brian Sampson

*"A sacred economy is about making do with more, not less -- more beauty,
more community, more fulfillment" – Charles Eisenstein*

Music as we gather

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

“Holy Spirit, Come to Us”

MV #75

**Holy Spirit, come to us, kindle in us the fire of your love.
Holy Spirit, come to us. Holy Spirit, come to us.**

Gathering Prayer

Opening Hymn: “Come and Find the Quiet Centre”

VU #374

**Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.**

**Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we’re shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.**

**In the spirit let us travel, open to each other’s pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there’s a place for deepest dreaming, there’s a time for heart to care,**

in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

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We listen to two readings

Making Do with More - by Charles Eisenstein

From *Sacred Economics: Money, Gift and Society in the Age of Transition* (2011) by Charles Eisenstein

A world without weapons, without McMansions in sprawling suburbs, and without big-box stores does not have to be impoverished. Some environmentalists say we have to make do with less. But I believe that in a sacred economy, we would make do with more: more beauty, more community, more fulfillment, more art, more music, and with fewer material objects but ones of higher quality.

We are starving for spiritual nourishment, for a life that is personal, connected, and meaningful. A sacred economy could help heal the divide between spirit and matter by treating relationship, circulation, and material life as sacred, because they are.

Mark 12:13-17 (“a question about paying taxes”)

Some religious teachers and followers of Herod were sent to Jesus to catch him in his speech. They approached Jesus and said, “Teacher, we know you are truthful and unconcerned about the opinion of others. It is evident you aren’t swayed by another’s rank, but teach God’s way of life sincerely. So, tell us this: is it lawful to pay tax to the emperor or not? Are we to pay or not to pay?”

Knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me? Let me see a coin.” When they handed him one, he said to them, “Whose image and inscription do you see here?”

“Caesar’s,” they answered.

Then Jesus said, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and give to God what is God’s.”

This reply took them completely by surprise.

Reflection: Coins and fools

... music for meditation ...

Prayers of the People - The Prayer of Jesus

**Our Father, our Mother,
loving God in whom is heaven:
may your name be made holy,
may your reign come,
may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today the bread we need;
and forgive us our debts,
as we have forgiven our debtors;
and do not put us to the test,
but free us from evil.
For yours is the dominion,
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

United Church of Christ (USA), 1995, adapted. Music by Wendy Edey

*** Closing Hymn – "We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"**

MV #143

**We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflowers growing,
for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.**

**When bodies shiver in the night and weary, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labour,
that all may have abundant life in oneness with their neighbour.**

**God calls humanity to join as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating,
that new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavor,
that all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.**

*Words: Ruth Duck
Music: Marty Haugen*

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*** Blessing**

“Now the Green Blade Rises” (verses 1 & 4)

VU #186

**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
love is come again, like wheat arising green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again, like wheat arising green.**

Words: John M.C. Crum, 1928

Music: medieval French carol, harm. Martin Shaw 1928

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Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Next Sunday

On May 10, we will celebrate Mother's Day with a meditation on the 23rd Psalm.