

Fourth Sunday of Lent

**The First Church in Belfast
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
March 11, 2018
10:00 a.m.**

WE ARE GATHERED IN

WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Master Designer"

OPENING SEQUENCE for Lent 4

Call to the Lenten Journey:

Mending our Rift with Creation and Ourselves

Words from the Gospel of John (3:5-8)

One Voice

tune: **PASSION CHORALE**

"Restoring Creation" vs. 4

words: **Rev. Kate Winters, Belfast, 2018**

Invisible yet vital / the sacred air we breathe,
the sixth day of creation / the breath of God received
into these earthen bodies, / so quickened and alive.
But if the air is poisoned / how will the children thrive?

Reflection

Lent

by Richard Fiske

Prayer of Confession / Litany of the Atmosphere

Response: **Grant us the will to change our ways, O God.**

-SILENCE-

Lenten Hymn

"Restoring Creation" vs. 4-5

Invisible yet vital / the sacred air we breathe,
the sixth day of creation / the breath of God received
into these earthen bodies / so quickened and alive.
But if the air is poisoned / how will the children thrive?

Restoring the creation / restores the human soul.
There is no separation, / together healed and whole.
We must now come together / to mend what has been torn.
To act in love and justice, / for this the church was born.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTION

"This is Jeopardy!"

Super Kids vs. The Old Giza's

**Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING Numbers 21:4-9 Pat Kaplan

GOSPEL READING John 3:14-21

MESSAGE "Lifted Up" TJ Mack

WE LIVE THE WORD

***HYMN** "Children of God" #533

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.*

INVITATION TO GIVE

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, one.

(Note: The First Church honors the diverse languages of faith. Please sing with words that are meaningful to you. Other versions of the Doxology are found in our hymnal, #776-781.)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We give of ourselves to participate in your work of creation, O God. Bless our efforts to heal, to reach out to those who suffer, and to restore beauty and balance to the earth. May our gifts be used with the wisdom of Christ, Jesus, in whom all things are made whole. Amen.

WE ARE SENT AND BLESSED

***CLOSING HYMN** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #43

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**