

**UU Church of Columbia, MO**  
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister  
**“Saving Paradise”**  
*Easter Sunday*  
**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**  
**March 31, 2024**

**Welcome**

**Prelude** – “Look Up” by Joy Oladokun – performed by Violet Vonder Haar

**Opening Words** – “Easter Exultet” by James Broughton

**\*Hymn # 361** – “Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”

*Enter, rejoice, and come in.*

*Enter, rejoice, and come in.*

*Today will be a joyful day;*

*enter, rejoice, and come in.*

*Open your ears to the song...*

*Open your hearts ev’ryone...*

*Don’t be afraid of some change...*

*Enter, rejoice, and come in...*

**Chalice Lighting & Words of Affirmation**

*Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law;*

*this is our great covenant:*

*to dwell together in peace,*

*to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.*

**Centering Moment** – Jamila Batchelder, DRE

## **Stones of Joy & Sorrow**

### **Singing the Children to Class**

*Live in joy, go in peace  
Hold all our love as we part.*

*Live in joy, go in peace  
Hold all our love in your heart.*

### **Joys & Sorrows Prayer**

#### **Hymn #266 - “Now the Green Blade Riseth”**

*Now the green blade riseth 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 that springeth green.*

*In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,  
thinking that never he would wake again,  
laid in the earth, like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Love’s touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

#### **Reading – “V’Ahavta” by Aurora Levins Morales**

#### **Anthem – “(Re) Imagine It All” by Violet Vonder Haar**

#### **Sermon – “Saving Paradise” by Molly Housh Gordon**

**Hymn # 203 - “All Creatures of the Earth and Sky”**

*All creatures of the earth and sky,  
come, kindred, lift your voices high,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Bright burning sun with golden beam,  
soft shining moon with silver gleam:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Swift rushing wind so wild and strong,  
white clouds that sail in heav’n along,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Fair rising morn in praise rejoice,  
high stars of evening find a voice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Cool flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for all life to hear,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Dance, flame of fire, so strong and bright,  
and bless us with your warmth and light:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Embracing earth, you, day by day,  
bring forth your blessings on our way,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
All herbs and fruits that richly grow,  
let them the glory also show:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*All you of understanding heart,  
forgiving others, take your part,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Let all things now the Holy bless,  
and worship God in humbleness:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

**Offertory** – “Light of A Clear Blue Morning” by Dolly Parton – performed by Violet Vonder Haar

***This morning’s offering will be a Faith to Action collection for the UUCC Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team.***

**Give by text to 573-405-1202**

*Faith-to-Action: Enter amount, with or with a dollar sign, then a space, then the code **f2a***

*General collection: Enter amount, with or without a dollar sign*

*Pledge: Enter amount, then a space, then the word pledge*

**Or give online at <https://uucomo.org/give/>**

**Closing Words**

**Benediction**

*Now on leaving one another,  
may we give of hand and heart.*

*Let us share our benediction,  
lovingly before we part.*

\* Please stand or remain seated as you feel most comfortable.

Is there a way we can make our worship service or community more accessible to you?  
Let us know. Email the minister at [minister@uucomo.org](mailto:minister@uucomo.org) or call 442-5764.

**Church Staff:** Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister; April Rodeghero, Church Administrator; Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education; Violet Vonder Haar, Director of Music Ministry; Phylshawn Johnson, Sound Technician