

UU Church of Columbia, MO
Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister

August 16, 2026
“When the World Comes Alive”
Molly Housh Gordon

Gathering Song – “When You Arrive” by Annie Zylstra

Welcome

Prelude – Violet Vonder Haar

Opening Words – Responsive Reading #445

Leader: The womb of stars embraces us; remnants of their fiery furnaces pulse through our veins.

All: We are of the stars, the dust of explosions cast across space.

Leader: We are of the earth: we breathe and live in the breath of ancient plants and beasts.

All: Their cells nourish the soil; we build our communities on their harvest of gifts.

Leader: Our fingers trace the curves carved in clay and stone by forebears unknown to us.

All: We are a part of the great circle of humanity gathered around the fire, the hearth, the altar.

Leader: We gather anew this day to celebrate our common heritage.

All: May we recall in gratitude all that has given us birth.

Opening Hymn #163 – “For the Earth Forever Turning”

*For the earth forever turning; for the skies, for ev’ry sea;
for our lives, for all we cherish, sing we our joyful song of peace.*

*For the mountains, hills, and pastures in their silent majesty;
for the stars, for all the heavens, sing we our joyful song of peace.*

*For the sun, for rain and thunder, for the seasons’ harmony,
for our lives, for all creation, sing we our joyful praise to Thee.*

*For the world we raise our voices, for the home that gives us birth;
in our joy we sing returning home to our bluegreen hills of earth.*

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

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 – “This Earth is Your Home” by Olivia Fern

*May you know in your bones that this earth is your home
May you feel in your soul you are worthy and whole
May you know in your bones that this earth is your home
May you feel that you belong.*

Reading – from *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Musical Interlude – Violet Vonder Haar

Sermon – “When the World Comes Alive” – Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon

***Hymn #1009** – “Meditation on Breathing”

*When I breathe in,
I'll breathe in peace.
When I breathe out,
I'll breathe out love.*

*Breathe in, Breathe out,
Breathe in, Breathe out*

Offertory – Violet Vonder Haar

***This morning's offering will be a Faith-to-Action Collection
for Caring Hearts and Hands of Columbia.***

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 securely online at uucomo.org/give

Closing Words – by Wayne Arnason

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 or call 442-5764.

Church Staff: Rev. Dr. 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