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Join us this Lent

- *Do a weekly meditation with the wonder of creation
- *Worship together (online and at the Seattle campus)
- *Read The Earth Charter
- *Follow the weekly action steps created by our Sacred Earth Matters team
- *Spend time connecting to creation

*Interconnectedness as Hope
in a changing climate*

THE KIN-DOM OF GOD



Greetings on April 1, 2022

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, last weekend Pastor Amy was called away to Tacoma as her Aunt Norma was nearing the end of her life. Norma died Monday evening. As Pastor Amy has taken time and space this week and will in the weeks to come we hold her, Benjamin, and her whole family tenderly and cling to the Easter promise of life everlasting.

Pastor Amy's tending to family led to a late Saturday transition for worship and I took on the preaching responsibilities. Folks have been gracious in their appreciation of the sermon, particularly with short notice. I am thankful for the kind words and that folks were blessed by the message.

This also gives the opportunity to share a bit more about how our worship team collaborates; last Sunday was the fruit of that labor. Each sermon series idea is planned weeks or months before they begin. Covid has collapsed some of this timeframe but we're already kicking around ideas for the fall and Advent. As we get closer to the start of the series, we start digging a bit deeper, exploring how

the series and each week's theme flow together. 10 days before worship we do a text study and conversation around the direction the preacher may be going. We workshop the sermon. Any adjustments to music or liturgy start here. The Wednesday before each week we look to finalize the sermon idea so that the rest of the team knows how to shape prayers and the feel of the service. Sunday morning we meet at 8am to make sure we're all on the same page and look through the order of service.

So, while a call Saturday night to step into preaching requires some effort, I was also not starting from scratch. I'd been thinking about this Sunday's theme for almost two months. I'd been in conversation with the worship team and Pastor Amy for almost two weeks. I was able to receive some of the prep she did in that Saturday conversation, too.

This is a great example of team ministry. We flock together enough that when something comes up, the team is able to support and respond. We don't always get it right - but last week, in a moment where it really mattered, we did. We could be the community of faith that supports taking space, grieving, bearing one another's burden, and sharing leadership without ego or anxiety. I see it throughout our church, with the ebb and flow of liturgists and ushers, small group leaders and prayer team, folks who look for what needs to be done, folks who ask for what they need, the ongoing establishment of community. It is both our values and our strength. Thanks be to God.

Peace, Pastor Steve