

Notes from the Music Department

We are privileged today to have Dr. Jacob and Dr. Molly Roseman as our special guest musicians for the first time since before the pandemic shut down began. These teachers/performers are currently on the faculties of the UWSP Music Department (Molly) and the Wausau Conservatory of Music (Jacob). Welcome back to both of you!

Our opening hymn was composed by long-time Unitarian Universalist composer, Jim Scott. Many of his hymns, such as our opening hymn, "**Gather the Spirit**" are in our UU hymnals. As co-chair for the UU Ministry for the Earth, Jim was one of the creators of the Green Sanctuary program. Green Sanctuary is a unique opportunity for deep congregational growth and transformation through a commitment to make every aspect of congregational life as sustainable and environmentally responsible as possible. This comprehensive program educates congregations about their environmental impact as institutions and individuals. Action plans seek to increase building sustainability, improve congregational practices and create relationships within the wider community.

A member of the Paul Winter Consort, Jim collaborated in the writing of the Missa Gaia/Earth Mass. One of our favorite hymns, "**For the Earth Forever Turning**," was an outgrowth of that project.

As we continue to look forward to the end of this seemingly never ending pandemic, "**Glory, Glory, Hallelujah**" seems to have the perfect lyrics for expressing our joy as we return to in-person worship. Originally the lyrics, "Since I laid my burden down" referred to the relief felt by a slave as they converted to Christianity. Today a strong case could be made that being vaccinated carries that same feeling of "Whew!" "Hallelujah!"

