

St. Mark's Episcopal Church



Vacation Bible School 2020
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

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This is a song that was sung by African-American slaves. It is called a *spiritual* because it is filled with hope and love and trust in God. It was recorded in the 1920's and has been sung by many different musicians in the years since. It is a favorite for folk singers and church revivals. One thing that is really fun about it is that you can make up your own lyrics – singing about what is important to you in the moment. And it doesn't matter if you are a particularly good singer or not – this song is about joyful noise not perfect noise!

Kadir Nelson inspired by this song's simple message sought to capture in words and images the joy of living in and engaging with world. He envisioned a multiethnic family, representative of the earth's diversity, and chose San Francisco as his setting – its oceans and seas, mountains and rivers a perfect complement to the lyrics of the song.

Celebrate this song by singing it!
Blow up your earth balloon and bounce your earth ball. And make some “mud pies” to enjoy the goodness of the earth.



Seeds of Change

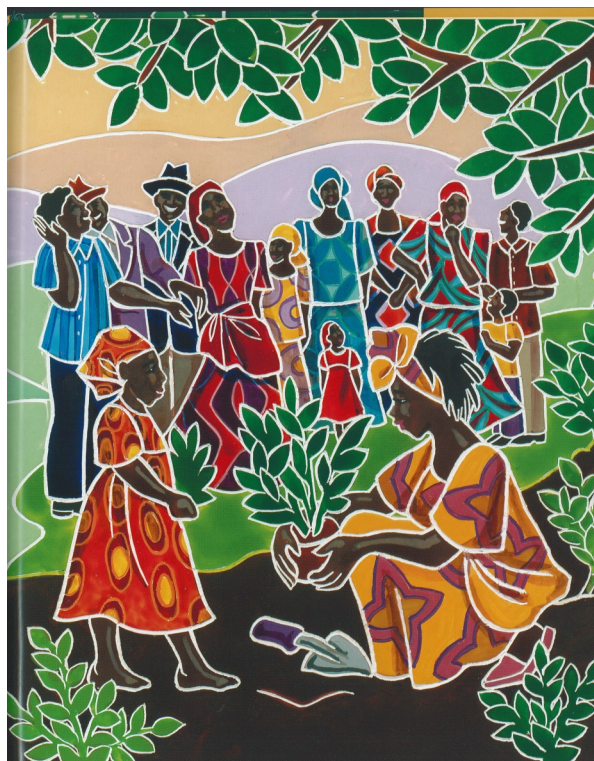
The Story of Wangari Maathai

As a young girl in Kenya, Wangari was taught to respect nature. She grew up loving the land, plants, and animals that surrounded her – from the giant mugumo trees her people the kikuyu revered, to the tiny tadpoles that swam in the river.

Although most Kenyan girls were not educated, curious, hardworking Wangari was allowed to go to school. There, her mind sprouted like a seed. She excelled at science and went on the study in the United States. After returning home, Wangari blazed a trail across Kenya, using her knowledge and compassion to promote the rights of her countrywomen and to help save the land, one tree at a time.

In 2004, Wangari Maathai was the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Celebrate Wangari by planting seeds—you can start them in the small pots and when they spout plant them in your yard. They like sun. Make a bug to keep them company using the air-dry clay.



The Boy who Harnessed the Wind

The Story of William Kamkwamba

Heroes can be any age. When William was fourteen years-old, living in a drought-ravaged area of Malawi in Africa, he pursued a dream that brought electricity and running water to his desperately poor village.

William had always been interested in how mechanical things work, and after poring over old science textbooks, painstakingly teaching himself English so that he could understand them, he became determined to build a windmill. The people in his village called him crazy, but he knew he could succeed. Slowly but surely, he turned junkyard scraps into a functioning windmill, and brought electricity to his home and eventually life-saving water to his village.

He attended Dartmouth College and his nonprofit, Moving Windmills Project supports Malawian-run rural economic development projects.

Celebrate William by making a “windmill” - a pinwheel.
And make a 4th of July wind-sock for fun.

