

First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming
Just Peace Congregation
May 31, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Pastorale on 'Come Down, O Love Divine'
Kathy Szydlo, clarinet

arr. Frank Stoldt (b. 1958)

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music

Canticle of the Sun

Marty Haugen

Refrain



The heav - ens are tell - ing the glo - ry of God,
and all cre - a - tion is shout - ing for joy. Come,
dance in the for - est, come, play in the field, and
sing, sing to the glo - ry of the Lord.

Call to Worship

Adapted from Katherine Hawker

Then I will pour out my spirit on all flesh, God declares.

Send down the fire of your justice!

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.

Send down the rain of your love!

Your old shall dream dreams,
and your young shall see visions.

Send down your Spirit, breathe life into your people!

In those days, I will pour out my spirit, God says.

And we shall be people of God!

Opening Hymn

Come Down, O Love Divine

Down Ampney

Come down, o Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine
And visit it with thine own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near;
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming,
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong
With which the soul will long
Shall far outpass the power of human telling,
For none can guess its grace
Till we become the place
Wherein the holy spirit makes its dwelling.

Time With Children

Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.
All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.

Scripture

Acts 2:1-21

Sermon

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Hymn

Breath of God, Breath of Peace

see next page

Sung Call to Prayer

One: We do not know how to pray as we ought,
All: But the spirit of God intercedes for us, with sighs too deep for words.

Pastoral Prayer

Response

One: We do not know how to pray as we ought,
All: But the spirit of God intercedes for us, with sighs too deep for words.

Prayer of Jesus

*You are invited to unmute and speak the words most meaningful to you
or follow with the version here:*

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

BREATH OF GOD, BREATH OF PEACE

Adam M. L. Tice

PATTERNS
Sally Ann Morris



1. Breath of God, Breath of peace, Breath of love,
2. Word of God, Word of peace, Word of love,
3. Voice of God, Voice of peace, Voice of love,



Breath of life, Breath of jus - tice, Breath of pas - sion,
Word of life, Word of jus - tice, Word of pas - sion,
Voice of life, Voice of jus - tice, Voice of pas - sion,



Breath cre - at - ing, Breath of heal - ing, Breath of sing - ing,
Word cre - at - ing, Word of heal - ing, Word of sing - ing,
Voice cre - at - ing, Voice of heal - ing, Voice of sing - ing,



Breath of pray - ing, Come up - on us, come re -
Word of pray - ing, Come up - on us, come re -
Voice of pray - ing, Come up - on us, come re -



store us, come in - spire us, Breath of God.
store us, come in - spire us, Word of God.
store us, come in - spire us, Voice of God.

Sharing our Gifts and Music

Offertory

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Ian Kellam (1933-2014)

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love
And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Blend all my soul with thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die
But live with thee the perfect life
Of thine eternity.

—Edwin Hatch (1835-89)

Prayer of Thanks

adapted from Carol Penner

Holy Wisdom, you invite us to faithful living. Guided by your Spirit, confident in your voice showing us the way, we give these gifts faithfully, joyfully, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

Ebenezer

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,
Come with Pentecostal power;
Give the church a stronger vision,
Help us face each crucial hour.
Built upon a firm foundation,
Jesus Christ the cornerstone,
Still the church is called to mission
That God's love shall be made known.**

**We would raise our alleluias
For the grace of former years;
For tomorrow's unknown pathway,
Hear, o God, our humble prayers.
In the church's pilgrim journey
You have led us all the way,
Still in presence move before us,
Fire by night and cloud by day.**

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us;
Give us words of fire and flame.
Help our struggling voices praise you,
Glorify your holy name.
Good Creator, Savior, Spirit,
Three in One: what mystery!
We would sing our loud hosannas
Now and through eternity.**

Benediction

Postlude

Variation on Down Ampney, Op. 47

Jan Bender (1909-1994)

We are so glad you joined us for worship today!
Please remain in the meeting if you would like to briefly check in over Zoom Coffee Hour.

News to Note

Transition Team and Search Committee Nominations Process

Throughout the past two years, First UCC has undergone tremendous change, much of it unplanned, and this congregation has navigated that change with grace and resilience. Now, it is time to engage purposefully with the next change. It is time to begin the search for our next senior minister.

This process will begin with the formation of a Transition Team. The Transition Team has a straightforward yet profound task. This group will do the deep, necessary work of reviewing, refreshing, and revising the mission and purpose of First UCC. The results of the Transition Team's work will then be handed off to a Search Committee, which will engage in the process of locating the person who can carry out and fulfill that mission and purpose.

Transition Team Members

The Transition Team will be made up of four to seven committed members of First UCC who are willing, able, and excited to engage with our own congregation and leaders in the Northfield/Rice County area about the role of our church as we seek to answer the central questions of who we are, who our neighbors are, and who God is calling us to be. These members should be prepared to critically analyze our existing systems and priorities, but also to dream big about where we might go in the future. Members should be comfortable working together regularly for three to six months, using the information they collect to construct a formal Local Church Profile.

Search Committee Members

The Search Committee will be made up of six to eight committed members of First UCC who will ensure that our next senior minister fully embodies the ideas and ideals of our congregation as articulated by the Transition Team. These members should be ready to collaborate with First UCC Conference staff to attract senior minister candidates, then spend a further six to nine months prayerfully discerning which of these candidates best matches our leadership needs. This will involve meeting potential pastors directly, and reading volumes of relevant work. Human Resource experience is welcome.

Forming the Transition Team and Search Committee

There are two ways congregants' names can be submitted for consideration.

1. Individuals within the congregation who feel called to be a part of either the Transition Team or the Search Committee should submit a paragraph of interest to governance@firstucc.org.

2. Individuals within the congregation who believe they know someone who would make a good member of either the Transition Team or the Search Committee should first have a conversation with that person to ensure their willingness to be considered. Then the nominator can submit a recommendation paragraph to governance@firstucc.org

The window for submitting names is from Sunday, May 24th to Sunday, June 14th. It is especially important for those following the second path to submit names as early as possible.

Once the full list of interested members has been compiled, it will be considered and narrowed down to a slate of four to seven names by the three members of the nominations committee along with two members of council. These recommended names will be voted on by the full congregation at a meeting tentatively planned for June 28th, and the Transition Team will begin its work in July.

Strengthen the Church Offering Received at Pentecost

As we celebrate the life of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we celebrate the ways the Spirit is still moving to create and renew the church.

[The Strengthen the Church](#) (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of all settings of the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. This offering embodies the wisdom, “together we grow stronger.”

This offering provides the financial resources for the United Church of Christ to be a Spirit-inspired and world-changing Christian movement. STC funds ministry that allows us to benefit from best practices, insights, and innovations across the life of the UCC. Because of our support, new church starts have emerged, congregations have been revitalized, and leadership skills have been enhanced. We will receive the offering in our Pentecost worship online today.

Last Chance to Sign Up

In an ongoing effort to join the community of First UCC, Pastor Wendy will be hosting Meet and Greet gatherings on the Zoom platform. The gatherings will include up to four people in addition to Pastor Wendy and will center on two questions to generate conversation. The prompting questions are:

1. Tell us your story of finding First UCC.
2. What are your hopes for First UCC in this time of transition?

To sign up for a time you can go to SignUpGenius by [clicking here](#) and selecting a time that works best for you. Once you have signed up, you will receive an email with the Zoom meeting instructions.

If you cannot access the sign up online, please call the church office and leave a message with possible times that work for you. We will match you with a date and the information you need to join the meeting by phone.

Spotlight on Children's Letter Writing

We have many members who live alone or who reside in facilities that are isolated due to the Coronavirus. What a great time to show that our church family does not need to be in the building together to be in connection. With some great help from Linda Larson, a member of the Care Ministry team, a list of about 30 members was developed. We reached out to families in the youth group and the younger faith formation classes to see if they would like to make a connection with one of our members on the list. We have approximately 15 families who volunteered to connect with our more isolated members, corresponding every week or so. Volunteer families are staying connected with those on the list throughout the duration of this time of isolation using drawings, notes of encouragement, letters, sharing of pictures, emails and maybe more! It has been a long haul and will still be a while before we can all be together. Hopefully these notes of connection can make a return to our church building even sweeter when that time safely arrives! ~ Carrie Menk

ISAIAH Helps Build the Beloved Community

The state legislature adjourned with much left undone to build a caring community. Continue urging legislators to put values ahead of partisanship in the likely special session next month. Northfield folks linked to ISAIAH will be calling many of you in the weeks to come on what concerns you most of all as we formulate a loving vision going forward. Please respond to these calls.

If you would like to be part of local and regional meetings (and aren't already on the Isaiah email lists), please contact Carolyn c.fureslocum@gmail.com, Leota leotagoodney@hotmail.com, or Matt rohn@stolaf.edu.

Invitation to Prayers of Solidarity

During this time of pandemic, we invite you to take a moment of mindfulness or prayer each evening at 7:00 p.m. If it helps, set an alarm on your phone or device for this time each night. Pray for those who are living in isolation at home, or in assisted living, or in other care facilities. Together, at the same time each night, we will be praying in solidarity and hope. If you are isolated at home, or in an assisted living or care facility, we invite you to put a post-it note on your clock so you know that there are people all over the community specifically holding you in their hearts each night.

Giving to the Church

Due to Stay at Home orders and in an effort to slow the spread of Covid-19, we are worshiping online and connecting in small groups virtually. We still need your gifts! You may give electronically by visiting our website and clicking the "[Donate Online Now!](#)" button, under the Giving tab. You may also visit our website [electronic giving authorization form](#) and mailing it to Finance Manager Andrea Pegram at church. Gifts may be mailed to First UCC, 300 Union Street. Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministries!

Care Ministry Team

A note from the UCC Care Ministry Team: the Care Ministry Team wants to know if you have any needs that can be met by us or members of our congregation. We serve as the extra eyes and ears of the

church, so please speak with any member of our Care Team if you or someone you know is in need of extra support--anything from meals, child care, crisis help or weekly check-ins. We can connect you with our congregational pastor. Barb Altstaetter 507-645-9786, Barbara Crouter, Linda Larson 612-709-6795, Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Bill Poehlmann 507-645-5422, Katharine Powers, Claire Rafferty, Kathy Sandberg, Jan Shoger 507-645-5236, Kellee Tussing, Gina Washburn, Claire Rafferty, Bonnie and Larry Fowler 507-645-6930.