

**First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming
Just Peace Congregation
June 7, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

Prelude *Chorale in the Dorian Mode* Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music *Be Still and Know* Marty Haugen

**Be still and know,
Be still and know,
Be still and know that I am God.**

Call to Worship Mary Luti

One: Beloved, let us center ourselves in God, for the Spirit is coming to us all,
All: to give us gifts for sharing,
One: to change our hearts for loving,
All: to fill our lives with connection,
One: to wake up the world for living,
All: to tell God's name for praising!
One: The Spirit is coming to us all—
All: the gift of Christ, poured out today!
One: Now lift your hearts in worship and praise!

Opening Hymn *Spirit of the Living God* Iverson

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

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

Psalm 46

Bruce McWilliams

Sermon

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

Hymn

By Gracious Powers
(see next page)

Bonhoeffer

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.

Sharing our Gifts and Music

Offertory

Elevation

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

Prayer of Thanks

For the gifts of breath, of life, of healing; for the call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you; for the delight to rest in your presence, we thank you, God. Bless us and make us whole for your sake. Amen.

By Gracious Powers

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1944
 Transl. Fred Pratt Green, 1972

Unison

1 By gra-cious powers so won-der - ful - ly shel-tered,
 2 Yet is this heart by its old foe tor - ment-ed,
 3 And when this cup you give is filled to brim-ming,
 4 Yet when a - gain in this same world you give us

and con - fi - dent - ly wait - ing, come what may,
 still e - vil days bring bur - dens hard to bear;
 with bit - ter sor - row, hard to un - der - stand,
 the joy we had, the bright-ness of your sun,

We know that God is with us night and morn - ing,
 O give our fright - ened souls the sure sal - va - tion
 We take it thank - ful - ly and with-out trem - bling,
 We shall re - mem - ber all the days we lived through,

and nev - er fails to greet us each new day.
 for which, O God, you taught us to pre - pare.
 out of so good and so be - loved a hand.
 and our whole life shall then be yours a - lone.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, professor, and leader of the German Opposition, composed the poem on which this hymn is based, "New Year 1945," while imprisoned by the Gestapo in Berlin. Four months later, Bonhoeffer was executed by special order of Himmler.

Tune: BONHOEFFER 11.10.11.10.
 Herbert G. Hobbs, 1976
 Harm. Jan Helmut Wubbena, 1976

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

We Lift Up Our Hearts in Gladness



We lift up our hearts in glad - ness, As we now gath-



- er, one faith pro-fess - ing. Our life-giv-ing Bread, the Source



of our fu - ture Glo - ry, gives strength and bless - ing.



Come, O Lord, Come, O Lord.

Invitation & Telling the Story

Sharing the Bread & Cup

You are invited to eat the bread and drink from the cup you have prepared in your worship space.

Music During Communion

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Kathy Szydlo, clarinet

Hymn of Sending

When Peace, Like a River

Ville du Havre

**When peace, like a river, upholds me each day,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,**

**“It is well, it is well with my soul.”
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

**O God, speed the day that is filled with your light,
When clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear,
“Even so”—it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

Benediction

Postlude

Chaconne

Louis Couperin (1626-1661)

**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 re-visioning 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 closes on 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.

Women's Group Meeting

The First-UCC Women's Group will meet in a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, June 9 at 10:00 a.m. If you are new to the Women's Group and would like to join in, please contact Judy Kinstad at WJK@Q.com or call/text 507-412-7861.

Donations Requested to Meet Needs in the Cities

The unrest in Minneapolis and St. Paul has caused store closings and shortages of food and other supplies. First UCC friend Leah Entenmann, along with Abulai Iddrisu (St. Olaf history department) and his daughter Rahmah (Northfield High School) are accepting donations that they will take to community organizations in the Twin Cities. See below for information. Donations may be dropped at 203 Manitou Street.

SUPPLIES NEEDED (last updated 6pm 6/7/20)

Medical/Protective:

- First Aid supplies and OTC meds (including inhalers, nebulizers, and asthma supplies)
- Masks (especially cloth)
- Gloves- (including latex and safety/work gloves)

- Fire extinguishers and hoses
- Hand sanitizer and spray/wipes
- Goggles and Milk of Magnesia (not mint, alcohol-free)
- Sunscreen
- Squirt top bottles of water
- Stretchers
- Flashlights with full batteries

Groceries:

- Brooms, trash bags, shovels, dust pans, and other cleaning supplies
- Diapers, formula, baby food, baby wipes
- Hand/body soap, dish soap, shampoo/conditioner, laundry detergent
- Phone chargers (especially portable, pre-charged)
- Deodorant and lotion
- Tampons and pads
- Storage boxes, packing tape, black markers
- Coolers and ice
- Disposable plates, cups, utensils
- Paper towels, toilet paper, paper bags
- Food (especially non-refrigerated, non-perishable, canned, dry [like rice and cereal], gorp-type snacks)

Spotlight on our Ministry: Care Team

The Care Ministry Team at First UCC is a group of people dedicated to being God's feet, hands, heart and mind to all people in our community. We seek to increase awareness of and witness to one another's struggles, foster connection among people and provide ways for mutual support. ~Care Ministry Mission Statement

The Care Teams' mission stated above seems more important than ever especially during these challenging times. We are continuing to reach out to those in need and now with the added challenge of distancing and social isolation we need creative thinking about how to do our ministry in meaningful ways. Our main goal during both April and May has been to reach out to all of our church family each month to hear about their activities and especially needs during this time with Covid-19 at our doorsteps. That has been over 300 calls each month. The Care Team has truly enjoyed connecting with others and has found this to be very meaningful ministry moments.

We have heard about the creative ways people are coping. Common activities which are actually new for many include baking, driveway gatherings with distancing and mask wearing, gardening, painting, biking, walks, golf, putting puzzles together, playing cards, taking pictures, enjoying nature and appreciating springtime watching leaves and flowers open up and birds nesting and so much beauty all around us. Many have commented about how wonderful ZOOM church is and a great way to feel connected.

Some of the struggles have included concerns about and missing family, unable to hug and hold the grandkids, managing computer time when both parents and all kids need computers to connect to work and school, not being able to be with elderly parents, grandparents and even spouses who are in care centers and addressing fears of being out in public again.

A common message we heard on our calls was realizing how important relationships and friendships are to our wellbeing. The care team knows this well and will continue to be creative in all the different ways we can be there for people.

We are grateful for all the ways our church community is strengthening and encouraging one another in this time. If you or someone you know would like to connect with someone from the Care Team, please contact any of the care team members: 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 5007-645-5236, Kellee Tussing, Gina Washburn, Bonnie and Larry Fowler 507-645-6930. ~ Linda Larson

New Group Forming

Let's talk and write and draw to explore who we want to be during these times of extraordinary change. Elizabeth O'Sullivan and Linda Larson will be digging into these themes in a new group that meets for 8 weeks starting the week of June 15.

We will look at stories from the books of Ezra and Nehemiah as conversation starters because these books describe rebuilding a community and identity after tremendous loss and change. However, this is not a traditional Bible study because our main goal is to befriend our own experiences of exile, loss, identity and rebuilding. Our weekly meetings will include a story from Ezra/Nehemiah, a discussion of that story, and a discussion of our own experiences. Between our meetings, participants will be invited to write or draw using prompts from the themes we discussed. To register your interest as meeting dates are set, please contact Elizabeth elizabethosulli@hotmail.com or Linda ralinlar@gmail.com

ISAIAH News

George Floyd is in all of our hearts and prayers. UCC joined ISAIAH to help us realize our joint objectives of adhering to what we are called by the spirit to do, which in part is creating "a democracy that honors every person's dignity." Part of that is: "A recognition and respect of the full humanity of people of color, indigenous people through full democracy and restorative investment" ("Claiming Our voices Faith Agenda"). 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.

Reunir

For those who took a Reunir bracelet last fall, you committed to keeping the bracelet until the over 5,400 children who have been incarcerated at the border were released. You made contributions to one of 4 organizations that are trying to help these children. You also agreed to contact your representatives in Congress to do something about this issue of detaining migrant children as a way for the current US administration to deter immigration by separating children from their parents. It is hard to believe this is happening in our country, but it still is.

One of the helping organizations, KIND, (Kids in Need of Defense) states that every day the immigration courts remain open during the COVID-19 crisis endangers children, judges, respondents, law enforcement, attorneys, and the public. KIND is calling on the Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) to follow federal CDC health guidelines and #CloseTheCourts now. They are asking us to keep these conditions in our view, to contact our congressional representatives and call for the Immigration Courts to close, to do something to end these deplorable conditions, and ask that this all be made public. Here are contact numbers to make a call:

Rep. Angie Craig 202-225-2271

Sen. Amy Klobuchar 202-224-3244

Sen. Tina Smith 202-224-5641

You can find out more here and sign on to a petition:

<https://supportkind.org/get-involved/make-your-voice-heard/>

And if you go to this website you can watch and listen to in person stories of and by immigrant children that are deeply moving and shocking. As one person says, if you do watch these you may feel greatly moved to do more. May it be so. <https://flores-exhibits.org/>

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 worshipping 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!