

**First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming
Just Peace Congregation
August 23, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

Prelude

Andante in F Major
Kay Sahlin, flute

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Testimony and Welcome

John Barbour

Announcements and Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music

I Woke Up This Morning

African-American spiritual

One: I woke up this morning with my mind

All: Stayed on Jesus,

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus.

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus.

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

One: Singin' and prayin' with my mind

All: Stayed on Jesus,

Singin' and prayin' with my mind stayed on Jesus.

Singin' and prayin' with my mind stayed on Jesus.

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

Call to Worship

Julie Villo

One: Welcome, kingdom-seekers!

Many: Prophets and peacemakers, rejoice and be glad!

One: Salt and light, give glory to God!

Many: Saint and sinner, be reconciled.

One: Come and be nourished in this moment.

Many: Come, children of God, and worship.

Opening Hymn

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

Terra Beata

**God reigns o'er all the earth!
Green hills and valleys low,
The farms and towns in golds and browns
God's grace and beauty show.**

**God reigns o'er all the earth!
Stone banks and spreading plains,
In rainbow hues—reds, yellows, blues—
Of streams and country lanes.**

God reigns o'er time and space!
In history's bygone days,
Christ's faithful folk in reverence spoke
To bring God earnest praise.

God reigns o'er time and space!
O'er galaxy and sun,
Through timeless years the cosmos hears
The heavenly music run.

God reigns! Emmanuel!
God with us every day,
In all our past and to the last,
Our comfort and our stay.
God reigns! Emmanuel!
Let praise to Christ be sung!
God's presence here makes all things dear.
Let joyful bells be rung!

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

Luke 11: 1-4

Susan Evans

Sermon

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

Hymn

This Is a Day of New Beginnings
verses 1, 2, and 4
(see next page)

Beginnings

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.

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and
 * In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

*Alternate fourth stanza for Holy Communion

Brian Wren wrote this hymn in 1978 for a New Year's Day service in Oxford, England. The music is by the editor of two hymnals of the United Methodist Church and was composed for the original Wren text.

Tune: BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.
 Carlton R. Young, 1987

Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to unmute and pray 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

Sonata in B Minor: Largo e dolce

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Prayer of Thanks

For this second, this minute, this hour, this precious gift of time to revel in you Holy One, we thank you. Help us breathe peace and share generously inspired by your provision for us each and every day. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Guide My Feet

African-American spiritual

**Guide my feet while I run this race, (x3)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**I'm your child while I run this race, (x3)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Stand by me while I run this race, (x3)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

Benediction

Postlude

Modal Suite: Allegro giocoso

Ernest Bloch (1880-1959)

**We are so glad you joined us for worship today!
We will gather in Breakout Rooms for friendship following the Postlude.**

News to Note

Bring Your Own Picnic - Gathering at Valley Grove- Sunday, August 30 @ 1:00 p.m.

The Covid-19 Task Force has approved a gathering of First UCC to take place at Valley Grove on Sunday August 30 @ 1:00 p.m. The Task Force agreed to this gathering with the following guidelines: People must register for the event in order to attend (for the purposes of contact tracing).

- ★ We will have greeters at the gate to check people in.
- ★ In order to be present, every participant must wear a mask.
- ★ We will provide hand sanitizer and masks for those who forget.
- ★ If people need a sample of keeping six feet apart, that is the distance between rows of headstones!
- ★ This would be our one try, no rain date.

Please register your presence [here](#). It will be good to gather and experience being in physical proximity as a community!

Attention Faith Formation Families

The Children's Faith Formation Team has been thinking of you often this summer. Whether it's navigating family life in a pandemic, working on new and renewed efforts for racial justice, or anticipating a different school year ahead of us, a lot is happening!

With that in mind, we have made little bags for your family on the theme of Calm in Transition. Our Calm in Transition bags will be waiting for you at church, each week, in the weeks leading up to the beginning of school. You can find them on the steps outside the church doors, pictured below. Each week will have one of the following different themes (not necessarily in this order):

- calm
- contemplation
- gratitude
- kindness

Your bags will include a scripture or spiritual practice card, a snack, and tactile items to reinforce the theme of the bag each week for your child(ren) to play with. We hope you will take the time to stop by First UCC's front steps to grab a bag or two for your family to enjoy!

The First UCC Transition Team Pilots Community Sessions

The Transition Team is piloting Community Engagement sessions (via zoom) in August to hear from you. We are looking for creative ways to include as many people as possible. To that end, we are going to experiment initially with 3 sessions - one with an existing Connect group, one for an affinity group (Faith Formation parents) and one open session for anyone who wants to join. We want to keep the groups small enough for good participation. Know that we will schedule additional sessions in September, and will share what we learn along the way.

Thursday, August 27 @ 6:30 p.m.- Faith Formation Families

Sunday, August 30 @ 4:00 p.m.- Open Session

Please register your presence for [Faith Formation Families](#) or for the [Open Session](#).

We will limit each group to 12 participants, so please respond early. You are also welcome to use this email address transitionteam@firstucc.org to send any questions or concerns you have about our

transition process. Pastor Wendy and Chairperson Sarah Carlsen will check this email regularly and share the content, but not specific names, with the full transition team.

Our Faith, Our Vote

To prepare for the 2020 elections, the United Church of Christ D.C. Office, with the help of ecumenical friends and partners, has put together specific resources for congregations and communities to use. In the midst of a critical election year, the goal of the resources is to consider some of these major topics and how our faith informs our vote.

Hopefully, these videos and resources will help you learn about these topics vital to the upcoming elections, allow you to view the topic through the lens of your faith, and to guide you to action. You can [find the videos and resources here](#).

ISAIAH

“To pray ‘your Kingdom come’ is to ask God – how can I be part of what you are doing in the world? Come November 3rd, I imagine each one of us taking this prayer in tow to the ballot box. For to pray ‘your Kingdom come’ is to align our lives, our decisions, our actions with God’s ordering of the world. We are not voting a Republican vision or a Democratic vision. We are tasked with asking, how does this candidate’s plans and values align with a prayerful, relational understanding of God’s vision. Praying ‘your Kingdom come’ is not a powerless prayer. It does not leave decisions in the hands of others but invites us to be clear about the values of community God wishes us to create. It also encourages us to ask how we can partner with God in co-creating this community” (Pastor Wendy’s “Your Kingdom Come” sermon Aug. 18, 2020).

Staff Vacations

Gladys Ehn, Office Manager - August 20-21

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis, Minister for Congregational Life - August 19-24

Summer Drop-in Hours

In the summer season, Pastor Wendy and Pastor Lauren have drop-in Office Hours in outdoor spaces or on Zoom. In order to maintain compassionate distancing and yet offer some venue for connection, you can find the pastors on these days, in these locations. You may either drop-in or send an email in advance that you plan to show up. Because there may be more than one person at a time, we hope community bonds will be built. For the outdoor locations, the rain plan will be to meet on Zoom instead.

Pastor Wendy beginning June 30:

Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at Bridge Square picnic tables

Thursdays from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. until August 27 on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/97669397249>

Meeting ID: 976 6939 7249

Dial by your location- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Pastor Lauren beginning July 6:

Mondays from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. on Zoom (excluding August 24)

Wednesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at Bridge Square picnic tables (excluding August 19)

Giving to the Church

In this time of pandemic, 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 and complete the electronic giving authorization form and mailing it to Finance Manager Andrea Pegram at church. Gifts may be mailed to First UCC, 300 Union Street, Northfield, MN 55057. 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: WE ARE HERE FOR YOU! Please know that 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, rides, deliveries of essential needs (groceries, meds, etc.), or weekly check-ins. We can connect you with congregational support. You can also continue to check in with the pastors. Our team is: 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, Bonnie and Larry Fowler 507-645-6930.