

First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming
Just Peace Congregation
September 13, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Testimony and Welcome

Mackenzie Perkins

Announcements and Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music

Still, I Search for my God Francisco Feliciano (1977)



Still, I search for my God, in si - lence I mar - vel at the
Come, lis - ten to the trees, the green fields, the riv - ers and the
Yes, I am filled with peace, for I feel the pres - ence of the



u - ni - verse, the world it con - tains, the beau - ty, the har - mo - ny! Cre -
morn - ing breeze, the birds of the air all sing - ing their ma - ker's praise. Cre -
Lord my God. Your praise I will sing, my ma - ker, cre - a - tor of all, be -



a - tor of such per - fec - tion, who else could it be?
a - tor of count - less won - ders, who else could it be?
cause when I think of your works, joy reigns in my heart.

Call to Worship

One: Friends, this is the place and now is the time...

Many: To pour out our hearts and receive God's solace.

One: This is the place and now is the time...

Many: To ask the hard questions, to confess our confusion.

One: This is the place and now is the time...

Many: To respond to the call to discipleship, not counting the cost.

One: Then let us receive God's blessings:

Many: Mission and purpose, life in community, grace beyond measure.

Opening Hymn

Simple Gifts

Shaker hymn

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just
right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

'Tis the gift to be loyal, 'tis the gift to be true,
'Tis the gift to labor till the day is through,
And when we find our world to be just and fair,
'Twill be in the joy of the gifts that we share.

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come round right.

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come round right.

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: 37 - 47 (interpreted)

Mandy Everhart

Sermon

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

Hymn

For Everyone Born
(see next page)

For Everyone Born

Sung Call to Prayer

One: As your spirit moved upon the waters,
All: **God, let your spirit move in us.**

Pastoral Prayer

Response

One: As your spirit moved upon the waters,
All: **God, let your spirit move in us.**

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.

For Everyone Born



1. For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2. For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 3. For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and
 a voice to be heard, a part in the
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to



bread, a shel - ter, a space, a
 song, the hands of a child in
 be, to work, to speak out, to



safe place for grow - ing, for ev - ery - one born, a
 hands that are wrin - kled, for young and for old, the
 wit - ness and wor - ship, for ev - ery - one born, the



star o - ver - head. And
 right to be - long.
 right to be free.



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus - tice and joy!

Sharing our Gifts and Music

Offertory

Serenity
Myrtle Lemon-Todd, soprano

Charles Ives (1874-1954)

O Sabbath rest of Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity
Interpreted by love.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

John Greenleaf Whittier, from "The Brewing of Soma" (1872)

Prayer of Thanks

Guide our generosity, our gratitude, our bravery in these not normal days, O God. May our gifts dedicated to your ways in the world transform us and the communities they help create in your name. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

Be thou my vision, o God of my heart;
Nought be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee, my soul is assured.
Mother and Father, thy daughter and son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heav'n's joys, o bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, o ruler of all.

Benediction

Postlude

Gigue Fugue in C

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

We are so glad you joined us for worship today!
We will gather in Breakout Rooms with Transition Team leadership following the Postlude.

News to Note

Coffee Hour Takeover!

The Transition Team is holding a listening session during the coffee hour this week on Zoom. Please stay after worship for at least 30 minutes to experience small group discussions and have your voice heard.

We will be discussing the following questions:

1. What has emerged as most important to you, given the events of the past year?
2. What have you learned about our church community during this time?
3. What are you most concerned about for yourself? For our church? For the wider community?
4. What response do you wish to see or hear from the church right now?

We will be hosting more congregational engagement sessions in September and October. Look to the Chronicle and weekly bulletins for dates and times to join. If you would prefer to share your thoughts via email, please write to transitionteam@firstucc.org. We want to hear from you!

Joint Effort with Carleton College - Courageous Conversations on White Privilege

Beginning Thursday, September 24 and continuing for six weeks from 5 – 6:30 p.m. on Zoom, First UCC will undertake a joint effort with Carleton College in bringing Courageous Conversations on White Privilege to our communities. You can see a flyer with more information and sign up with this form [here](#).

TORCH Box Volunteers

If you would like to make a difference in the life of a first-generation college student from the Northfield community, we need you! Please consider supporting our ministry of sending care packages to TORCH project college students this month, as they begin this very different year of school. This is a concrete project that involves putting together a box each for 12 students with one dozen purchased cookies, a kind note of encouragement, and a small gift from the congregation. You can add your own touches if you'd like, and make the boxes look fun inside with tissue paper, ribbons, or stickers. Shipping is easy and done locally. This is a collaborative effort between our church and other Northfield organizations. Together, we can ensure that all of the TORCH students feel our community encouragement. We'd love to have your help supporting TORCH students in this way! Please contact Pastor Lauren at pastorlauren@firstucc.org or Laura Turek, laura.m.turek@gmail.com, to volunteer or for more information.

Immigration Task Force Update

Due to COVID19 the Immigrant Task Force suspended two of our three initiatives: the adult curriculum on "Immigration Issues and Christian Responses" and a fall 2020 service-learning trip to the border in conjunction with Mayflower United Church of Christ in Minneapolis. Both of these two suspended initiatives are being monitored with the intention of activation as soon as permitted according to health and safety guidelines. The third initiative, providing our members with a link on www.firstucc.org

to our becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation resides under the Getting Involved tab. It is a one stop shop for Members to learn about and gain access to a variety of local entities serving our immigrant community in order to volunteer and/or donate.

In the meantime, Task Force members remain active and informed about local and national efforts to serve our immigrant community. Two such activities to be aware of are summarized on St. Olaf's Hostile Terrain 94 Facebook page: www.hostileterrainstolaf.com to which we commend you. The film, Ways of Being Home by Cecilia Cornejo, as noted in the last Chronicle, is but one of the public events St. Olaf is sponsoring to "...challenge community members to examine faith and values...". Another event, in which you can register to participate will be an October 14th Toe Tag Event, a participatory project where you fill out a toe tag for immigrants who have died trying to cross the Sonoran Desert of Arizona between the 1990's and 2019. The goal is to represent the 3,200 deaths in an art installation which will travel nationally.

Whether we work individually or as a group, there are many ways to express our support for our immigrant neighbors. The Task Force will continue to keep you informed on what we are working on and what events you can participate in. We encourage you to reach out to us should you want to join our efforts: washburng@hotmail.com

Children's Faith Formation Bags

Hello Children's Faith Formation Families! In these weeks leading up to this different-looking school year, and for support in this time of change, we made bags for your family on the theme of Calm in Transition. Our Calm in Transition bags will be waiting for you on the front steps at church, each week, in the weeks leading up to the beginning of school. This week, contemplation bags are waiting for you to come pick them up!

With much care for you and your families,
Pastor Lauren and the Children's Faith Formation Team (Marja Steinberg, Laura Turek, Kent Freeze, Deb Gottfried, Crystal Henslin)

ISAIAH

Register to vote so you can vote your values; apply for an absentee ballot so you have this at least as an option heading into uncertain times. (You can do both [here](#)). Questions about any aspect of voting? Email Matt Rohn (rohn@stolaf.edu) with them. Watch for details about ISAIAH's Sun., Sept. 27th Democracy Days, nonpartisan, virtual activities.

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.