

**First United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming  
Just Peace Congregation  
October 18, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

**Prelude**

*Modal Suite: Chorale*

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting of the Candle**

**Gathering Music**

*O Christ, Surround Me*

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan (2004)

**God, be the love to search and keep me;  
God, be the prayer to move my voice;  
God, be the strength to now uphold me.  
O Christ, surround me.  
O Christ, surround me.**

**Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,  
Flashing of lightning, strength of wind,  
Depth of the sea to soil of planet:  
O Christ, surround me.  
O Christ, surround me.**

**Bind to myself the name of holy,  
Great cloud of witnesses enfold;  
Prophets, apostles, angels witness.  
O Christ, surround me.  
O Christ, surround me.**

**Walking behind to hem my journey,  
Going ahead to light my way,  
And from beneath, above, and all ways,  
O Christ, surround me.  
O Christ, surround me.**

**Christ in the eyes of all who see me,  
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,  
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:  
O Christ, surround me.  
O Christ, surround me.**

**Call to Worship**

**One:** Siblings in the Spirit, come in and know the goodness of God's love!  
**Many:** **Come in and hold together beauty and mystery, sorrow and suffering.**  
**One:** Come in for the healing, solace, hope and freedom that awaits us all.  
**Many:** **Friends, gather in this space of being, belonging and becoming;**  
**All:** **Let the Spirit draw near and open us to her presence!**

**Opening Hymn**

*Let There Be Life in This House*

Peter Sykes

Kate Layzer

Let there be life in this house Poured from the rich - es of  
 Let there be life in this house Ten - der and truth - ful and  
 Let there be life in this house Life of the Spi - rit and  
 Let there be life in this house Life of the Bod - y di -

God Treas - ure in so man - y ves - sels of clay Giv - en for shar - ing, not  
 real Life of be - long - ing, res - pect - ed and free Hon - ored for all God de -  
 fire Sis - ters and broth - ers new - born from a - bove Dar - ing to love be - cause  
 vine Kind - ly and pas - sion - ate, ear - thy and odd We are the Church, be -

hid - ing a - way, Let there be life in this house!  
 clares us to be, Let there be life in this house!  
 we have been loved, Let there be life in this house!  
 lov - ed of God, Let there be life in this house!

**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 8:4-25

Amy Haslett-Marroquin

**Sermon**

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

**Hymn**

*In Solitude*

Land of Rest

**In solitude, in solitude, I come to God in prayer.  
 In silence and simplicity, my spirit blossoms there.**

**Whene'er the world is troubling me, and stress is all around,  
 I seek the presence of my God, and healing light is found.**

**In seasons of perplexity, in times of deep despair,  
I light a candle in the night and turn to God in prayer.**

**And when my heart is burdened down with cares for those I love,  
Too deep for words, with groans and sighs, descends the Holy Dove.**

**With psalms and hymns and songs of praise before my God I'll come,  
Till death itself is past and gone, and I arrive at home.**

**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.**

**Stewardship Moment**

**Rev. Shari Prestemon, Conference Minister MN United Church of Christ**

**Sharing our Gifts and Music**

**Offertory**

*Psalm 15*

(please join in singing the response)

# Psalm 15

Response

Antiphon: Emma Lou Diemer, 1994

The musical score is written for voice and piano. The voice part is on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the voice staff.

**Response. Who may dwell on the holy hill of God?**

O God, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?  
Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right,  
Who speak the truth from their heart, and do not slander with their tongue,  
Who do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors.

**Response. Who may dwell on the holy hill of God?**

In whose eyes the wicked are despised,  
But who honor those who fear God,  
Who stand by their oath even to their hurt,  
Who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent;  
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

**Response. Who may dwell on the holy hill of God?**

## Prayer of Thanks

For each and every gift, for each and every giver, for each and every impact of gifts received,  
we thank you God. Bless and multiply our energy, our time, our investment beyond our  
imagining. Amen.

## Hymn of Sending

*God Our Author and Creator*

Holy Manna

God our author and creator, in whose life we find our own,  
Make our daily witness greater, by our lives make your love known.  
Help us show how love embraces those whom fear and greed downtrod;  
In all yearning hearts and faces let us see a child of God.

Like those first apostles, Savior, give us strength to love and serve;  
When our fainting spirits waver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.

**Teach us wisdom and compassion; bid our restless thoughts be still;  
By your guidance help us fashion lives conformed unto your will.**

**Keep us faithful, Holy Spirit, help us bear the message true,  
That at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."  
Join our lives in mighty chorus till we come from every place,  
With all those who went before us, to the fullness of God's grace.**

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

*Trumpet Tune in D Major*

David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

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

## **News to Note**

### **If you are new to First UCC, welcome!**

Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Please consider filling out this ["virtual visitor card"](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about this community. Questions? Please contact Pastor Wendy or Pastor Lauren.

### **Memorial Service for Marge Tarr October 21, 3:00 p.m.**

Please join us to celebrate the life of Marge Tarr, a longtime member of First UCC. Her memorial service will take place on Zoom, Wednesday October 21, at 3:00 p.m. The Zoom login details are below. Marge was known for her unparalleled work documenting the church's history, for her work with the Asian Rural Institute in Japan with her husband, Don, for her beautiful sewing skills, and so much more. You may read her obituary [here](#).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97736581345>

Meeting ID: 977 3658 1345

Passcode: 831388

Dial by your location

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/alv3fIVh>

### **Thank You for your Food Shelf Generosity!**

Thank you to all who came out to Little Hill Berry Farm to gather outside, bless the harvest, and donate items to the CAC Food Shelf. Many thanks, too, to Molly McGovern and Aaron Wills for hosting us! Together, we collected and donated 167 pounds of food and 6 big boxes of diapers. Thanks for your great spirit of generosity, First UCCers!

### **2020-21 Children's Faith Formation Monthly Schedule:**

1st Sunday: faith formation bags for pick up, introducing the theme of the month

2nd Sunday: Holy Moly video on the month's theme, followed by kids' conversation on Zoom, 9:15-9:30 a.m. (Zoom link will be provided.)

3rd Sunday: Music with Chris Brunelle, 9:00-9:15 a.m. (Zoom link will be provided.)

4th Sunday: a family service opportunity. Report back on the service opportunity via questions posted on the First UCC Facebook page! Make sure you "Like" the page [here](#).

5th Sunday (if applicable): a special, surprise guest will share their favorite story.

Oct 11, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Faith Formation Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97016016906?pwd=bGdMUEZMbExoNEtUOTljaW4yS3hQZz09>

Meeting ID: 970 1601 6906

Passcode: 816645

### **Racial Justice at First UCC**

First UCCers are active in many ways, working for anti-racism. If you would like to know what's going on in our congregation for anti-racist, unmasking, and dismantling efforts, please use this open working document to learn more. There are book groups, community conversations, intervening efforts, a revisiting of the history of Northfield, as well as emerging efforts. Please utilize [this working document](#) to find out more, to connect with others in the congregation, or to add to the efforts. We can all contribute to this important work, inside ourselves and out in the community.

### ***Where Hope Thrives* Annual Stewardship Campaign**

First UCC is a place where hope thrives! We believe this whole-heartedly and have compiled a narrative in video form to tell the story of our ministry in these trying times. Many households received information about the Annual Campaign that includes a link to this video. [Check it out!](#)

Please consider committing time and financial support of our ministry of hope in Northfield and beyond. You can find the [Estimate of Giving Form](#) here.

### **ISAIAH's #WeMakeMNBetterOff Together!**

"Voting is an act of faith & love for our communities & right now the lives of our neighbors are literally on the line" (Jennifer Butler, Faith in Public Life). Voting has started! Discern & share your convictions with others. Vote by absentee ballot (go to the [MN Sec of State's website](#)); in-place absentee (at City Hall, 2nd Floor training room); or at your polling place on Nov. 3. Matt Rohn has created a detailed

information [sheet](#) and you can e-mail him if you have questions at [rohn@stolaf.edu](mailto:rohn@stolaf.edu). Other questions can be sent to our Isaiah church email address: [isaiah@firstucc.org](mailto:isaiah@firstucc.org). Join us in this act of faith and love--vote!

### **New Member Sunday Nov. 22**

We will be doing our Fall 2020 New Member Sunday during the Worship Service on Zoom. The New Member Orientation session will be also be held via Zoom after the Worship Service at 11:45am on November 8. We hope that those of you who have not 'officially' become members of First UCC yet will plan to join us! Please contact Jean Haslett, Membership Team Chair at [hasletts66@yahoo.com](mailto:hasletts66@yahoo.com) or 507-650-0753.

### **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 (507-645-6592); Linda Larson (612-709-6795); Elizabeth O'Sullivan (507-321-1221); Bill Poehlmann (507-645-5422); Katharine Powers (651-492-5488); Kathy Sandberg (507-210-2219); Jan Shoger (507-645-5236); Kellee Tussing (952-210-4028); Gina Washburn (507-210-8270); Bonnie and Larry Fowler (507-645-6930).