



**First United Church of Christ
Racial Justice Sunday
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation
January 16, 2022
10:30 a.m.**

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#).

Prelude *Canzon Cornetto* Samuel Scheidt (1621),
Connor Bitterman, Martin Hodel, arr. Philip Jones (1975)
Nathan Lyle, and Luke Sargent, trumpets

Welcome & Announcements

Introduction by Racial Justice Ministry Team Judy Bond

Gathering Music *Come, Let Us Worship God* Ray Makeever (1983)
(join in as directed)

Call to Worship

One: I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed:

Many: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all people are created equal.

One: I have a dream that our children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

Many: I have a dream that all residents of Northfield will find a welcome here, regardless of race, ethnicity, citizenship, or country of origin.

One: I have a dream that affordable housing will be available to all, and that every home will be safe.

Many: I have a dream that violence will cease and that bigotry will lose its power.

One: I have a dream that justice will be our foundation and peace will be our home.

Many: We have a dream today. Let us strive to make our dreams a reality.

Opening Hymn *I Woke Up This Morning* NCH #85

v1 I woke up this morning with mind
stayed on Jesus,
Woke up this morning with my mind
stayed on Jesus,
Woke up this morning with my mind
stayed on Jesus
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

v2 Singing and praying with my mind
stayed on Jesus,
Singing and praying with my mind
stayed on Jesus,
Singing and praying with my mind
stayed on Jesus,
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah

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.

Anthem *Unity* Glorraine Moone (1989)

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for kindred to dwell together in unity.

Unity, unity, Lord, we pray for unity. —Psalm 133, adapted

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Context for Sermon | | Kathy Sandberg |
| Scripture | John 21:15–17 | Lisa Sexton |
| Sermon | | Jackie McNeil |
| Introduction of Covenant | | Cindy Maddox |
| Prayer Hymn | <i>O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face</i> | NCH #585 (Roseberry) |

v1 O God, we bear the imprint of your face:
the colors of our skin are your design,
and what we have of beauty in our race
as man or woman, you alone define,
who stretched a living fabric on our frame
and gave to each a language and a name.

v2 Where we are torn and pulled apart by hate
because our race, or skin is not the same,
while we are judged unequal by the state
and victims made because we own our name,
humanity reduced to little worth,
dishonored is your living face on earth.

v3 O God, we share the image of the One
whose flesh and blood are ours, whatever skin;
in Christ's humanity we find our own,
and in your family our proper kin:
Jesus our brother we still crucify;
love is the language we must learn, or die.

The Prayers

We will begin prayers in song, then a minister will pray, and there will be time for silent prayer. Then we will sing again. All joining worship on Zoom are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.

Sung Response

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

Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to 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.

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Sent By the Lord

Traditional Cuban,
arr. Iona Community (1991)

Sent by the Lord am I; my hands are ready now
To make the earth a place in which the kingdom comes.
The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
Into a world of love, of justice and of peace.

The task is mine to do, to set it really free.
Oh help me to obey; help me to do your will.

—Cuban oral tradition, translated by Jorge Maldonado (1991)

Prayer of Thanks

Life-giving God, we bring our gifts to you with thanks and praise. We bring ourselves to you that we might be used to increase Christ's love, justice, and peace in the world. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Lift Every Voice and Sing
verses 1 and 3

NCH #593 (Lift Every Voice)

v1 Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

v3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we meet you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

Benediction (Draft of the Covenant)

We covenant with God and each other to engage in the work of racial justice to unmask, dismantle and eradicate racism from our society. Our actions will include acknowledging our racist history and repenting of our role in systemic racism; creating new relationships and building existing relationships to work toward racial equality; committing resources to the cause of racial justice; and listening to, trusting, and valuing the lived experiences of the people most impacted by racism. We, members of First United Church of Christ, commit to a vision of the world we believe God imagined where all people are treated with equality and dignity.

Postlude

Fugue in G Minor

J.S. Bach (1685-1750),
arr. Louis Davidson (1967)

We are so glad you worshiped here today!
Zoom breakout rooms are available for conversation after the service.
We hope you will stay!

News to Note

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 on Sunday mornings. For the rest of January, we will be worshipping online only. We hope to return to hybrid worship in February. We are glad to have you here! Are you visiting today? [Fill out our virtual visitor card.](#)

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. [Give online now](#), or send in your gifts via mail.

News & Announcements

Keep up to date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! [Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter](#), and find First UCC on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Past issues of The Chronicle are available at firstucc.org.

This Week at First UCC

Monday, January 17

6:30 p.m. Braiding Sweetgrass Book Group (Zoom)

Tuesday, January 18

1-2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. Northfield Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Assembly Room)

7 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 19

3:45 p.m. CONNECT Group (Library)

6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting (Zoom)

6:30 p.m. The Great Escape (Big Room)

Thursday, January 20

9:30 a.m. Braiding Sweetgrass Book Group (Zoom)

10 a.m. Care Team (Assembly Room)
6–9 p.m. ISIAAH Caucus Training (Assembly Room)
Sunday, January 23
10:30 a.m. Worship (Online)

Northfield Human Rights Commission MLK Celebration

The Northfield Human Rights Commission is pleased to be hosting the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration online on Monday, January 17 at 7 p.m. The theme of the event is “social action.” The event will feature Reverend Cindy Maddox, musical performances, and an open microphone for audience members to share a brief memory or vision inspired by Dr. King. Northfield Area Schools Superintendent Matt Hillmann will be presented with the 2022 Human Rights Award. The award is given to a local individual, group or organization that has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to the advancement of human rights in the Northfield area, either through volunteer or professional efforts. All are welcome to the virtual event. Get details and join the event online at: ci.northfield.mn.us/mlk

Save the Date: Jan. 23 Budget and Jan. 30 Annual Meetings Online

Save the date for January 23 and January 30 after worship at 11:45 a.m. for First UCC's budget and annual meeting. Both meetings will be held on Zoom, using the same Zoom link that is used for worship. Reports and relevant documents will be shared via The Chronicle and posted to the First UCC website prior to both meetings. Please join us for these important gatherings to administer the business of the congregation!

Faith Formation Ornaments Ready For Pick Up

Children's Faith Formation Families, did your child(ren) make an ornament or several ornaments for the Children's Faith Formation Christmas tree? Ornaments are ready for pick up in a basket in the Assembly Room. Please pick them up at your convenience, or let Pastor Lauren know if you would like to arrange another method of pick up. Thank you for sharing your Christmas cheer with the congregation!

Set Up Recurring Online Giving for First UCC

It's easy to set up a recurring online gift for First UCC! A reminder that if you had an automatic gift set up through Suran Systems/Engage, all gifts were cancelled in that system December 31. You must arrange to set up your giving in our NEW online giving system, Breeze, or arrange for bill pay with your bank. Visit <https://firstucc.org/giving/donate-electronically-now/> for more information about how to set up your recurring gift. Questions? Call the church office at 507-645-7532 or email church@firstucc.org.

ISIAAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)

The 2022 political party caucuses on February 1 are a critical opportunity to engage with neighbors and candidates on ISIAAH's people and planet-centered agenda, and make it a reality! ISIAAH will be holding a number of caucus trainings online throughout the month tailored to community contexts across Southern Minnesota. [Register for an online training session.](#)

SAY THEIR NAMES Intervention #31 Today

Please join SAY THEIR NAMES Northfield for Intervention #31 today, Sunday, January 16, at 12:15 pm in Bridge Square. The group will gather in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and remember the Black individuals killed by police over the years, and will sing, read names out loud, and reflect.

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First UCC Leadership & Staff

Ministers: All the people
Moderator: Sam Steinberg
Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox
Minister for Congregational Life: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis
Youth & Family Ministry Development Intern: Katie Johnson
Director of Music: Chris Brunelle
Organist: Theo Wee
Director of Communications & Operations: Green Bouzard
Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund
Audio Visual Technician: Bryn Artley
Sexton: Mark Fischer

Thanks to this Week's Leaders

Reader: Lisa Sexton
Preacher: Jackie McNeil
Racial Justice Team Speakers: Judy Bond and Kathy Sandberg
Digital Zoom Host: Shawn Nuebel
Guest Musicians: Donna McMillan, Ann Gregory-Bjorklund, voices;
Connor Bitterman, Martin Hodel, Nathan Lyle, Luke Sargent, trumpets
Worship Arts: Linda Gagnon