

First United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming  
Just Peace Congregation  
April 19, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

Prelude

*Now Let the Vault of Heaven Resound* David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

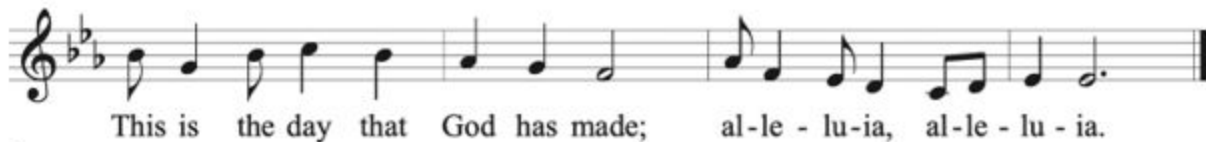
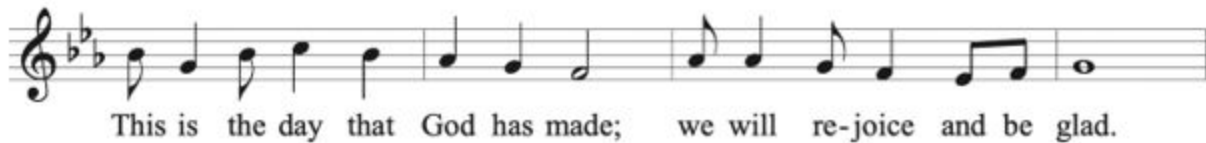
Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music

*This Is the Day*

Ronald Krisman



Call to Worship

Paraphrase of Psalm 16

*The congregation is invited to speak the words in **bold**.*

One: Protect us, O God,  
because we take refuge in you.

**All: You are our God.**

**You are the giver of all good gifts.**

One: You are our portion and our cup,  
your hold our very lives.

**All: We will bless you,  
for you give us wisdom by day and guard us by night.**

One: We will not stumble,  
for you are with us.

**All: Our hearts are glad, and our souls rejoice,  
for you do not give up on us.**

One: You show us the paths of life.

**All: In your presence there is fullness of joy.  
Beautiful things are in your hands forevermore. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn**

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*

#243

Weisse Flagen

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise;  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.  
Jesus on the cross as Savior for the world's salvation bled;  
But the crucified Redeemer now is risen from the dead!**

**Christ is risen, we are risen; shed upon us heavenly grace,  
Rain and dew, and gleams of glory from the brightness of your face;  
That we, with our hearts in heaven, here on earth may fruitful be,  
And by angel hands be gathered, and be yours eternally.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to the God of joy;  
Alleluia to the Savior, come to earth death to destroy;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! To the triune majesty.**

**Time With Children**

**God's word is for all God's children. Come gather, come gather.  
You're never too old for stories. Come listen, come listen.**

**Scripture**

Acts 1:1-14

**Sermon**

What Happens After Easter?

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

**Hymn**

*Now the Green Blade Riseth*

#238

Noel Nouvelet

**Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain.  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

**In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,  
Thinking that never he would awake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
He that for three days in the grave had lain;**

**Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Thy touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

**Sung Call to Prayer**

*Alleluia!*

Alice Parker (1925-)

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Response**

*Alleluia!*

Alice Parker

**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.**

**Sharing our Gifts and Music**

**Offertory**

*As His Own Soul*

Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943)

The soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David,  
and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. (1 Samuel 18:1)

**Prayer of Thanks**

adapted from Carol Penner

**God of grace, all we are and all we have are yours. Accept our joyful offerings as signs of our abiding love. Use them to bring peace, justice, and comfort to all the world. Amen.**

**Hymn of Sending**

*Come Away to the Skies*

Middlebury

**Come away to the skies,  
My beloved, arise  
And rejoice in the day you were born.  
On this festival day,  
Come exulting away,  
And with singing to Zion return.**

**Now with singing and praise,  
Let us spend all the days  
That our heavenly Maker bestowed,  
With the grace we receive  
From God's bounty, and live  
To the honor and glory of God.**

**Hallelujah we sing  
To the heaven's high King,  
And our rapturous praises repeat:  
To the Lamb that was slain,  
Hallelujah again  
Sing with voices and harmony sweet.**

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing*

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

**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**

### **Meet and Greets with Pastor Wendy**

In an ongoing effort to join the community of First UCC, Pastor Wendy will be hosting Meet and Greet gatherings on the Zoom platform. The gatherings will include up to four people in addition to Pastor Wendy and will center on two questions to generate conversation. The prompting questions are:

1. Tell us your story of finding First UCC.
2. What are your hopes for First UCC in this time of transition?

To sign up for a time you can go to SignUpGenius by clicking [here](#) and selecting a time that works best for you. Once you have signed up, you will receive an email with the Zoom meeting instructions. If you cannot access the sign up online, please call the church office and leave a message with possible times that work for you. We will match you with a date and the information you need to join the meeting by phone.

### **A Message from Pastor Wendy**

I have recorded a message here that answers a burning and quite legitimate question. Please click [here](#) to view it. Peace, Pastor Wendy

### **Contribution Statements**

This week, Q1 2020 contribution statements will be sent electronically to households with an email address on file. Otherwise, a statement will be mailed. First UCC greatly appreciates your gifts and continued generosity during this time!

### **ISAIAH and Faith in Minnesota**

ISAIAH learns each year from people of various faith traditions about what their hearts call out for, and what is needed for an inclusive and just society. It organizes us in nonpartisan ways, both by choice and legal restrictions, to make progress on these fronts. ISAIAH's sister organization, Faith in Minnesota, was created to do electoral organizing and work in support of any candidate (of any party) and entity (political parties, etc.) pursuing these objectives. First UCC, which is strictly nonpartisan, is a member of

ISIAAH. Many individuals in ISIAAH are formally members of Faith in Minnesota or informally participate in some of its activities. Participate with us. You can obtain ISIAAH training by doing [Community Resilience Conversations](#). Through Faith in Minnesota, you can join in [Race Class Narrative Trainings](#).

### **Northfield Earth Day 2020**

It's the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! "Plug into Climate Action" at the 11th Annual Northfield Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 25th, 2020, Live Online! Find links to our online sessions at [www.northfieldearthday.com](http://www.northfieldearthday.com) and like us on Facebook at Northfield Earth Day Celebration.

### **Plant Trees with the UCC!**

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day through the UCC Campaign to Plant 50,000 Trees. UCCers planted over 141,000 in 50 days in 2013 as part of Mission 4/1 Earth. The goal this time is 50,000 trees in 10 days from April 17 to 26. Learn how at [Love Creation, Plant a Tree](#) and read more from UCC Environmental Justice Ministries [here](#).

### **Giving to the Church**

Due to Stay at Home orders and in an effort to slow the spread of Covid-19, 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!

### **Minnesota Food Share**

March was Minnesota Food Share month, and First UCC graciously donated a total of \$1,325 via the Food Share special collection on March 15. Thank you for your generosity! These financial gifts have been given to the Northfield Community Action Center food shelf to support local food needs in our community.

### **CAC Food Shelf Challenge**

Due to extra anticipated needs in this uncertain time, the [Community Action Center \(CAC\) Food Shelf](#) could use any financial help you can offer. Member Scott Richardson proposes a First UCC Food Shelf Challenge. He writes: "The Northfield Community Action Center (CAC) Food Shelf needs help. The pandemic has increased the number of local families who are challenged with food insecurity. The food shelf needs resources to keep its shelves stocked. I am suggesting that members of the congregation, as they are able, take the money they would have spent in coffee houses or restaurants this past week and donate it to the CAC for food security. Northfield Rotary is doing that with money it is not spending on its noon lunches. This is one way we can make a difference while most of us are home." You may contribute directly to the CAC, or if you would like to contribute through the church, you may mail a check to the church, with "CAC Food Shelf" on the memo line.

### **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, child care, crisis help or weekly check-ins. We can connect you with congregational support. You can also continue to check in with the pastor. Our team is: Barb Altstaetter 507-645-9786, Barbara Crouter, Amanda Pettis Eastvold, 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, Claire Rafferty, Bonnie and Larry Fowler 507-645-6930.