

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

Prelude

Songs My Mother Taught Me
Andrea Een, violin

Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904)

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music

This Is the Day (Psalm 118)

Ronald Krisman

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics: "This is the day that God has made; we will re-joice and be glad." The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics: "This is the day that God has made; al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes, with a final double bar line at the end of the second staff.

Call to Worship

adapted from Carol Penner

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

One: Parenting God,
thank you for giving us life and breath on this beautiful day.
The leaves unfurl their green hallelujahs!
The nesting birds join the spring song of praise!
Buried in the soil, seeds leap upward at your command!

**All: The glory of your goodness bursts out all around us,
our hearts overflow with your presence!**

One: Today we say thank you for all who are nurturing life.
For those who listen and encourage,
for those who impart needed guidance,
for those who give undivided attention,
for those who provide the necessities of life
willingly, lovingly, consistently.

All: For these and all gifts of care, we give you praise!

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.**

Each little flower that opens,	The purple-headed mountain,	The cold wind in the winter,
Each little bird that sings,	The river running by,	The pleasant summer sun,
God made their glowing colors	The sunset and the morning	The ripe fruits in the garden,
And made their tiny wings.	That brightens up the sky.	God made them every one.

Recognition of Children’s Faith Formation, OWL, and WFFF Leaders

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 Romans 12:9-21 Gottfried Family

Sermon Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Hymn *For Brightly Greening Spring* see next page

Sung Call to Prayer *Alleluia!* Alice Parker (1925-)

Pastoral Prayer

Sung Response *Alleluia!* Alice Parker

Prayer of Jesus

*You are invited to unmute and 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

FOR BRIGHTLY GREENING SPRING

Adam M. L. Tice

TERRA BEATA
Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930



1. For bright - ly green - ing spring when
2. The cool cas - cad - ing rains a
3. Be - cause they nur - ture us, and



li - lac blos - soms bloom, for beasts that end a
thirst - ing de - sert needs; the sup - ple sun - light's
shape us as we learn, be - cause they fos - ter,



sea - son's sleep and rouse from win - ter's
long - er span; the soil and sprout - ing
guard and guide through life at ev - 'ry



gloom; for hatch - ing, birth - ing time and
seeds join na - ture's rhyth - mic dance - the
turn, praise God for young and old, for



play - ful grow - ing days; for moth - ers bring - ing
song of life and death, led sure - ly by God's
wom - en and for men who shel - ter us like



life to earth, O God, we give you praise.
moth - 'ring hands, and formed in God's own breath.
chicks with - in the wings of moth - er hen.

Offertory

Pray That Jerusalem May Have Peace

C.V. Stanford (1852-1924)

Pray that Jerusalem may have
Peace and felicity:
Let them that love thee and thy peace
Have still prosperity.

Therefore I wish that peace may still
Within thy walls remain,
And ever may thy palaces
Prosperity retain.

Now for my friends' and brethren's sakes,
Peace be in thee, I'll say.
And for the house of God our Lord,
I'll seek thy good away.

—Psalm 122:6-9, from the Scottish Psalter

Prayer of Thanks

Holy One, you are the great giver of gifts. You provide for us and care for us. As we have been abundantly provided for, so we give abundantly to the work of the church and community. Accept these gifts in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/8 time. The lyrics are: Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than hate; light is strong-er than dark - ness; life is strong-er than death. Vic-'try is ours, vic-t'ry is ours through him who loved us. Vic-'try is ours, vic-t'ry is ours through him who loved us.

Text: Desmond Tutu, b.1931, ©; adapt. by John L. Bell, b.1949
Tune: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, Irregular; John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1996, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Benediction

Postlude

Butterfly, Op. 43, No. 1

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

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

Updates from Covid-19 Task Force

On Thursday, April 23, 2020, Governor Walz made a few announcements regarding Minnesota's approach to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. This update is to help First UCC members understand how the latest announcements impact our building, our activities, and our plan moving forward.

The Stay At Home order remains in effect at least until May 4. This means that our building remains closed with a few exceptions. The exceptions include essential work that can only be done in the building (e.g. recording an organ prelude for worship; picking up a text needed to write this week's sermon), and the maintenance/upkeep of our property. As spring arrives, the upkeep of our property includes tending to the grounds and the memorial garden. The Task Force has identified the following guidelines for staff and/or volunteers who are helping to maintain our grounds:

- Please wear face coverings to ensure that anyone else you run into will be safe
- Please only enter the parts of the building necessary to perform your task; the building will not be accessible during outside work projects
- Please limit the total number of participants at any given time to 10 for outside work and 2 for work inside the memorial garden
- Please maintain safe social distance - at least 6 feet for sedentary work, 12-15 feet for work with exertion (work that makes you breathe hard)
- Volunteers experiencing any symptoms (cough, fever, chills, shortness of breath, nausea, etc.) should stay home

The Governor is rolling out a plan to slowly re-open Minnesota. As part of his announcement, Governor Walz shared the slides linked here. We encourage you to look specifically at slide #7, which highlights with a graphic where places of worship fit into the big picture of reopening the state. In explaining the plan, Governor Walz said, "Our lives will look different for quite some time. As we move forward, I want you to know how we're making our decisions. Before we turn these dials, we will carefully consider public health, economic, and societal impacts."

In this plan, the Governor has outlined very specific steps that workplaces in industrial, manufacturing and office settings must take to allow workers to return. We trust that when it is time for places of worship to re-open, we will be provided with similarly specific steps to follow. As such, the Covid Task

Force is not yet creating a reopening plan. Rather, we are paying close attention to the process as it unfolds so we will be prepared to respond with our detailed plan as soon as guidance from the Governor is issued.

Schools will finish the academic year through distance learning. While this announcement does not directly impact the life of the church, it has an enormous impact on the children and families of the church. It did not come as a surprise for most, but many families were quietly hoping that some semblance of a normal end to the year might still be salvaged. We see this announcement as a reminder that we need to continue to take care of each other, even virtually.

The Covid Task Force will meet again in May. We will continue to give you updates as we are able. Please feel free to reach out to any of the members with questions or concerns. This can feel like a very scary and lonely time, so as we continue on this uncertain journey together we encourage you to look for and share signs of hope.

Sincerely,

the Covid Task Force (Janet Lewis Muth, Gary Carlson, Anne Meyer-Ruppel, Erin Barnett, Linda Larson, Greg Muth, Lauren Baske-Davis, Wendy Vander Hart)

From the MN Conference United Church of Christ - Pandemic Relief Program Announced

The Minnesota Conference Board of Directors approved a plan to make three grant opportunities available to clergy and congregations. These grants are designed to provide some immediate relief to those struggling most during this difficult pandemic, and to strengthen our clergy and churches for the future beyond COVID-19. To read more about the program click [here](#).

The generosity of First UCC is helping to make this program possible for our struggling churches and leaders. God bless our giving.

If you are interested in receiving regular updates on the ministry of the MNUCC you can click here to [subscribe](#).

Spotlight on Men's Group

As many of you know, First UCC Northfield has an active Men's Group, founded originally by Jerry Mohrig and Ed Lufkin and maintained through their leadership over the years. Traditionally, the group has met twice a month: afternoon of the first Monday of the month just to catch up with each other and then on the third Monday of the month for breakfast followed by discussion of a reading selected by a member.

In these COVID times, Dan Sullivan and Jim Rafferty have joined Ed to help keep the Men's Group going and the schedule has intensified a bit at the request of the members because of the decrease in cherished contact as a result of the COVID-imposed isolation. The group now meets every Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. except for the third Monday of the month—discussion of a reading selected by a member—when the time is 10:00 a.m. Breakfast, obviously, is not now a part of that meeting.

Isolation has also moved the group on-line to Zoom instead of our normal face-to-face meetings at the church.

The next meeting is 3:00 p.m. Monday May 11 for catch-up. The May 18 10:00 a.m. meeting discussion will be led by Gary Wagenbach, assisted by Pastor Lauren, and the title of the reading is "Will We Ever Figure Out How to Talk to Boys About Sex?"

The group is always seeking new participants. If you're not already on the email meeting invitation list and want to be, contact Ed Lufkin at edwardlufkin4@gmail.com and he will add you.

Join Us! New Member Sunday, May 17

Our Spring 2020 New Member Sunday is going to be a new version of "receiving new members into our congregation." We will be doing it during the Worship Service on Zoom. The New Member Orientation session will also be held via Zoom after the Worship Service and Coffee Hour on May 3. We hope that those of you who have not officially become members of First UCC yet will plan to join us! Please contact Membership Team Chair, Jean Haslett, via email hasletts66@yahoo.com or phone 507-650-0753.

Donate to CAC

[#GiveAtHomeMN](#) runs from May 1-8th and is our State's way of celebrating philanthropy while staying at home. 100% of your gift to CAC goes back into our community to support individuals and families through this pandemic. You can donate in a variety of ways:

- Directly on our [website](#)
- [Givemn.org](#)
- Text CACCOVID to 44321
- Mail/Drop-off check or cash at CAC - 1651 Jefferson Parkway HS 200, Northfield, MN 55057

Thank you for taking action. Thank you for staying home. Thank you for supporting your local community. Thank you for providing basic needs by stirring everything into a beautiful mess. ~ Scott Wopata

Invitation to Prayers of Solidarity

During this time of pandemic and stay-at-home orders to protect the most at-risk, we invite you to take a moment of mindfulness or prayer each evening at 7:00 p.m. If it helps, set an alarm on your phone or device for this time each night. Pray for those who are living in isolation at home, or in assisted living, or in other care facilities. Together, at the same time each night, we will be praying in solidarity and hope. If you are isolated at home, or in an assisted living or care facility, we invite you to put a post-it note on your clock so you know that there are people all over the community specifically holding you in their hearts each night.

Giving to the Church

Due to Stay at Home orders and in an effort to slow the spread of Covid-19, we are worshipping 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 [electronic giving authorization form](#) and mailing it to Finance Manager Andrea Pegram at church. Gifts may be mailed First UCC, 300 Union Street. Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministries!

OGHS Report

In April, First UCC collected \$2,765 for the *One Great Hour of Sharing* special offering. These dollars will be passed to the Minnesota Conference UCC and administered through Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Through *One Great Hour of Sharing*, UCC members reach out in the name of Christ to build sustainable communities, respond to disaster, and minister to refugees. Thank you for your generous support!

ISAIAH News

ISAIAH joined Minnesotans across the state this week to lift up our collective voices to declare that we are the ones #WhoCaresForUs! Organizations and individuals from all walks of life took to social media to thank those who have been caring for us, lifting up the ways we need to care for each other with our legislation and tax dollars, as well as revealing the ways a handful of powerful people and corporations have worked to unravel or deny many safety nets.

Only a few weeks are left in the legislative session--please continue to call your legislators asking them to support:

- +Paid Family & Medical Leave for all. Now more than ever we know all Minnesotans need access to Paid Family & Medical Leave;
- +Rental and mortgage assistance that includes immigrants;
- +A fair voting process that allows every eligible Minnesotan to vote, without fear for their health.

If you would like to be part of local and regional meetings (and aren't already on the Isaiah email lists), please contact Carolyn c.fureslocum@gmail.com, Leota leotagoodney@hotmail.com, or Matt rohn@stolaf.edu.

Care Ministry Team

A note from the UCC Care Ministry Team: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 pastor. 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.

