

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

**Prelude** *Processional for Manuals* Jan Bender (1909-1994)

**Testimony and Welcome** Sarah Forster

**Announcements and Lighting of the Candle**

**Gathering Music** *I Woke Up This Morning* African-American spiritual

One: I woke up this morning with my mind

**All: Stayed on Jesus,**

**I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus.**

**I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus.**

**Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.**

One: Singin' and prayin' with my mind

**All: Stayed on Jesus,**

**Singin' and prayin' with my mind stayed on Jesus.**

**Singin' and prayin' with my mind stayed on Jesus.**

**Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.**

**Call to Worship** Adapted from Carol Penner

**One:** You are the God who hears,  
the God who teaches us to pray.

**Many: Hear our prayer today  
as we call upon you,**

**One:** as we ask for forgiveness,  
and as we forgive.

**Many: God of hope, show us how to work together,  
standing up for what is right,**

**One:** stepping in when something's wrong,  
righting the wrongs we have done,  
shouldering each other's burdens,

**Many: and holding each other accountable;  
that change may take hold,  
and your kingdom may come. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Hymn to Joy

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, God of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus  
Which the morning stars began;  
Boundless love is reigning o'er us,  
Reconciling race and clan.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

**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**

Don Perkins

**Sermon**

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

**Hymn**

*Glory, Glory, Hallelujah*

Glory, Glory

Glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burden down.  
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down.  
Feel like shouting Hallelujah, since I laid my burden down.  
Ev'ry round goes higher, higher, since I laid my burden down.  
Glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burden down.

**Sung Call to Prayer**

One: We do not know how to pray as we ought,  
All: But the spirit of God intercedes for us, with sighs too deep for words.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Response**

One: We do not know how to pray as we ought,

**All: But the spirit of God intercedes for us, with sighs too deep for words.**

### 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.**

### Sharing our Gifts and Music

#### Offertory

*Largo*

Jan Bender

#### Prayer of Thanks

Adapted from Carol Penner

**In faith and with hope we give you these gifts, O God. Your generosity meets our needs, your creativity multiplies our gifts, and your grace invites us to kingdom living. Accept these gifts, in your Holy name. Amen.**

#### Hymn of Sending

*Guide My Feet*

African-American spiritual

**Guide my feet while I run this race, (x3)  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**I'm your child while I run this race, (x3)  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Stand by me while I run this race, (x3)  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

#### Benediction

#### Postlude

*Trumpet Tune in C*

David Lasky (1957-)

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

## News to Note

**Bring Your Own Picnic - Gathering at Valley Grove - Today!**

Sunday, August 30 @ 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The Covid-19 Task Force has approved a gathering of First UCC to take place at Valley Grove on Sunday August 30 @ 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. The Task Force agreed to this gathering with the following guidelines:

- People must register for the event in order to attend (for the purposes of contact tracing).
- We will have greeters at the gate to check people in.
- In order to be present, every participant must wear a mask.
- We will provide hand sanitizer and masks for those who forget.
- If people need a sample of keeping six feet apart, that is the distance between rows of headstones!
- This would be our one try, no rain date.

So we invite you to come masked, with hand sanitizer, your own food and a way to sit comfortably. We will only meet outside using the rows of headstones in the cemetery as a measure of the distance we agree to keep. There will be no formal program beyond a welcome.

Please register your presence here. There will be a compassionately distanced Blessing Circle to bring us together, but mostly this is a chance to actually see each other and be community.

### **Tree Dedication for Pastor Todd Lippert**

A tree honoring the ministry of Pastor Todd Lippert has been dedicated at Valley Grove as was announced at the time of Pastor Todd's farewell and celebration of his ministry in February. The tree is part of the Tyske Grove on the grounds of Valley Grove.

As we gather at that location on Sunday, you may use the following [map](#) to locate the grove and pause in thanksgiving for the ministry of Pastor Todd. [Here](#) are words that accompany the dedication.

### **Children's Faith Formation Bags**

Hello Children's Faith Formation Families! The Children's Faith Formation Team and I have had you on our minds, in our hearts, and in our prayers in these weeks leading up to this different-looking school year. For support in this time of change, we made little 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.

I hope you were able to swing by church and grab a "calm" bag last week. This week, come on by and collect a kindness bag or two! These may come in handy particularly if siblings are (as siblings do) occasionally squabbling in your home, or your family just needs a kindness reset. Your bag will include a scripture or spiritual practice card, a snack, and tactile items to reinforce the theme. If you ever come by church for a bag and they are out, please let me know. We have more, and will get one to you!

With much care for you and your families,  
Pastor Lauren and the Children's Faith Formation Team

### **NEW Drop-in Office Hours**

Pastors Lauren and Wendy are extending the Drop-In Office Hours practice into the Fall. Beginning September 2 + 3 and continuing through the month of October, you can visit with either Pastor at Bridge Square. In the event of rain, you can arrange the time to meet by phone.

You can drop-in with:

Pastor Lauren on Wednesdays from 3 – 5 p.m.

Pastor Wendy on Thursdays from 3 – 5 p.m.

Both Pastors are also available to schedule other times for phone calls or compassionately distanced visits. Mondays are sabbath days for Pastor Wendy and Fridays are sabbath days for Pastor Lauren.

### **ISAIAH**

“[I] end with an explicit invitation to practice [The Prayer of Jesus] in a particular way. As you prepare to vote this season – whether that is ordering a ballot to vote by mail, studying the issues at hand, listening to the debates, reading voter guides, casting your eyes over newspaper summaries, Reddit synopses or conversing with friends, family or colleagues – approach all of it with this prayer on your lips and in your hearts – ‘your Kingdom come.’ When you drop off, mail or cast your ballot pray ‘your Kingdom come.’ And then pay attention. See what rises up. Notice if it feels different. Talk with someone about it and keep praying it. I look forward to your stories. I suspect God does too” (Pastor Wendy’s “Your Kingdom Come” sermon Aug. 18, 2020).

### **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.