

**First United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming  
Just Peace Congregation  
August 9, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

**Prelude**

*I'll Bid My Heart Be Still*  
Andrea Een, viola

Rebecca Clarke

**Testimony and Welcome**

Jim Rafferty

**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**

One: Living and faithful Spirit,

**Many: the God in whom we live and move and have our being,**

One: the God who is made known through the life of Jesus,

**Many: bless us one and all as we wait on you today.**

One: Guide us to be open and mindful to the grace Jesus lived out,

**Many: that we may live with such open hearts and grace,**

**such gentleness and generosity of spirit, too.**

**Opening Hymn**

*For the Healing of the Nations*  
verses 1, 3, and 4  
(see next page)

Westminster Abbey

# For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with  
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your  
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the  
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing  
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,  
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,  
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of  
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through  
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon  
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.  
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.  
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.  
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

*Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.*

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
 Henry Purcell, c. 1680  
 Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

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

Bob Griggs

Sermon

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Hymn

*O for a World*

Azmon

# O for a World

575

*Miriam Therese Winter, 1987*

*Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12*

1 O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
 2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
 3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
 4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.  
 5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
 Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
 That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
 Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
 Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

*Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues" and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.*

Tune: AZMON C.M.

*Carl G. Gläser, 1828*

*Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839*

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

*Flutes*  
from *Ten Pieces for Organ*

Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

### Prayer of Thanks

Adapted from Quentin Chin

**Holy One, we give you grateful thanks for all that you have given. In the upside-down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we give away. May we give generously to bless your church, your people, your creation. 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

*Pasticcio*

Jean Langlais

**We are so glad you joined us for worship today!  
Please remain in the meeting for Breakout Rooms to discuss the sermon.**

## News to Note

### Online Concert at First UCC Benefits CAC

Tune in this afternoon, August 9, at 4 p.m. for a Facebook Live concert hosted by First UCC, performed by local Northfield musicians, and supporting the Community Action Center. This concert is part of If Music Be The Food, a national organization that organizes concerts to raise awareness and support for the hungry through the sharing of great music. Part of the concert was recorded in our sanctuary, and all donations will go directly to the CAC. Visit [IMBTF's Facebook page](#) and mark your calendars for [next Sunday's concert](#); it's a great way to enjoy beautiful music and to extend your support of our community.

### Transition Team Update

The First UCC Transition Team is in motion! The Transition Team is tasked with helping the congregation discern answers to three key questions as we prepare for the minister search process:

Who are we now?

Who are our neighbors?

Who is God calling us to be?

This discernment work will be happening throughout the fall, and there will be several opportunities for you to engage in the process along the way. We will start with hosting multiple listening sessions via zoom during late August and September. More details coming soon! In the meantime, if you have questions, concerns or ideas to share with the team, please email them to [transitionteam@firstucc.org](mailto:transitionteam@firstucc.org). We want to hear from you!

Updates:

- We met with UCC conference staff last week via Zoom and received strategies and tools for beginning this process.
- We'll begin community interviews this week (5 already scheduled!) as a way to gather outside perspectives on "Who is our neighbor?"
- We were delighted to meet in person (!) for a planning session this last Sunday. Having these important conversations as a congregation during this time of physical distancing will require creativity and patience. We miss getting to have these conversations in sanctuary together!

### Women's Group

The First-UCC Women's Group provides an opportunity for a time of sharing and forming new friendships. We share our stories and discuss current issues as we draw support from each other. Our next Zoom meeting will be held Tuesday, August 11 at 10:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to join the Women's Group. If you are new to the group and would like to join in, please contact me with your name and e-mail address and I will be happy to add you to our contact list and for Zoom meeting announcements. E-mail me at [WJK@Q.com](mailto:WJK@Q.com), or call/text me at 507-412-7861. We look forward to having you join us. Judy Kinstad, Coordinator

### **Fighting Apostles Double Header**

Despite the debut by the deceptively delightful Sam Steinberg and Adam Hoffman the Apostles dropped their fifth and sixth straight games in double-header action Sunday at Babcock Park. Defensively, the fabled Teal Curtain showed flashes of brilliance with Brad Hoff showing his grace and athleticism with a fully extended diving grab of a sinking liner in right field. He even won over the Russian judge scoring a perfect 10. With two more games scheduled this week, the Apostles seek to salvage some semblance of a season. Come see the action on Sunday, 5:00 and 6:10, Sechler Park.

### **Spiritual Practice of the Week**

Each week, the Chronicle will feature different First UCCers leading us through a video spiritual practice, or talking about their spiritual practice and why it's meaningful in a short video. When we speak about spiritual practice, we believe it is important that the definition is open, because we recognize that people find many ways to express and experience spirituality. This week, watch Jan Mitchell's video of Caring for the Environment as spiritual practice. You can find it on our church website [here](#). If you would like to share a spiritual practice and be highlighted in this new feature, please contact coordinator Sue Evans, [susancevans@charter.net](mailto:susancevans@charter.net).

### **ISAIAH Update**

What we're about: "In the last days and hours of my life you inspired me. You filled me with hope... When historians...write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burden of hate...Walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide" (John Lewis). Lewis fought tirelessly for the vote and its ability to profess truths. Vote and urge others to do so in the Aug. 11 primary and Nov. 3 general election. Absentee ballots for the November election can be obtained at the Secretary of State's [website](#) as a way of voting safely and reducing contact poll workers will otherwise face.

### **Black Lives Matter Lawn Sign Distribution**

Do you need a Black Lives Matter sign for your lawn and aren't sure how to get one? You're in luck! Black Lives Matter Lawn signs will be available through the group, Black Lives Matter Lawn Signs Twin Cities, who will distribute signs in the church parking lot. Contact-less pick up will be available if that is a need or preference. The suggested donation per lawn sign is \$20, and can be made in person or online following the instructions on the [link](#). Once you make the donation online, simply bring your smart phone with you, and show your donation receipt when you come to pick up the sign. Payments are made to First Universalist Church of Minneapolis. After the printing costs are covered, 100% of the donations go to black-led organizations recommended by [Reclaim the Block](#). You can see the list of nominated organizations [here](#).

Lawn signs will be available in the church parking lot next Saturday, August 15, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. If you have questions or would like a sign, but aren't able to make it to church, contact Lisa Sexton by phone 612-839-5475, or via email, [rawlinslsw@gmail.com](mailto:rawlinslsw@gmail.com). Lisa is also looking for people to help volunteer with her on the distribution dates, so if you are interested in that, please reach out to Lisa.

### **Summer Drop-in Hours**

In the summer season, Pastor Wendy and Pastor Lauren are setting up drop-in Office Hours in outdoor spaces or on Zoom. You may either drop in or send an email in advance that you plan to show up. For the outdoor locations, the rain plan will be meeting on Zoom instead. Dates range up until August 28. Check the [Church Calendar](#) for more details on times and Zoom information.

### **Staff Vacations**

- Rev. Wendy Vander Hart, Interim Senior Minister - August 3-10. No drop-in office hours this week.
- Andrea Pegram, Finance Manager - August 8-15
- Gladys Ehn, Office Manager - August 20-21
- Rev. Lauren Baske Davis, Minister for Congregational Life - August 19-24. No drop-in office hours this week.

### **Giving to the Church**

While we are worshiping online and connecting in small groups virtually, we still depend upon your generosity and 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 support of First UCC's ministries!

### **Care 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. 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.