

First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming
Just Peace Congregation
September 6, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Our Father in Heaven

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Testimony and Welcome

Shawn Nuebel

Announcements and Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music

Still, I Search for my God Francisco Feliciano (1977)



Still, I search for my God, in si - lence I mar - vel at the
Come, lis - ten to the trees, the green fields, the riv - ers and the
Yes, I am filled with peace, for I feel the pres - ence of the



u - ni - verse, the world it con - tains, the beau - ty, the har - mo - ny! Cre -
morn - ing breeze, the birds of the air all sing - ing their ma - ker's praise. Cre -
Lord my God. Your praise I will sing, my ma - ker, cre - a - tor of all, be -



a - tor of such per - fec - tion, who else could it be?
a - tor of count - less won - ders, who else could it be?
cause when I think of your works, joy reigns in my heart.

Call to Worship

Adapted from Chuck Fromm and Jeremy Armstrong

One: Holy One, teach us to pray,

Many: so we might awaken to the wonder of your presence,

One: so we might feel the gratitude of your gifts,

Many: so we might discover your realm, revealed in one another,

One: so that those struggling may find comfort in your Spirit,

Many: so we are not indifferent to the suffering of the world around us,

One: so we might love you with our whole hearts, and our neighbors as ourselves,

Many: so we may declare your glory as we gather together. Amen.

REJOICING

The God of Abraham Praise 94

Fm C Fm Bbm C A♭ Bbm F Bbm E♭ A♭ C

1 The God of A-braham praise, all prais - es to God's name, who
 2 God's Spir - it free - ly flows, high surg - ing where it will; God
 3 God has e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul; God's
 4 The God of Sar - ah praise, all prais - es to God's name, who

Fm E♭ A♭ D♭ A♭ E♭ Fm D♭ A♭ E♭ A♭

was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same! The
 spoke of old in proph - et's word; that word speaks still. Es -
 love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll. All
 was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same! The

A♭ C7 Fm A♭ E♭ C Fm D♭ Fm Bbm Fm C

one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears; the
 tab - lished is God's law, and change - less it shall stand, deep
 praise the liv - ing God! Ex - tol that hal - lowed name, who
 one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears; the

Fm C Fm E♭ A♭ Bbm Gdim Fm C Fm

First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!
 writ - ten on the hu - man heart, in ev - ery land.
 was, and is, and ev - er shall be still the same!
 First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!

Words: Moses Maimonides, 1130-1205; versification attr. Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400;
 Eng. tr. Max Landsberg, 1845-1928, and Newton Mann, 1836-1926
 Music: Hebrew melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751-1797
 Germany
 12.12.12.12.
 LEONI
 For lower setting see 354

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

Carol Rutz

Sermon

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Hymn

Satan, We're Gonna Tear Your Kingdom Down
(see next page)

Kingdom Down

Sung Call to Prayer

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

Pastoral Prayer

Response

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

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

O Had I Jubal's Lyre
from the oratorio *Joshua*
Myrtle Lemon-Todd, soprano

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

O had I Jubal's lyre or Miriam's tuneful voice,
To sounds like his I would aspire, in songs like hers rejoice.
My humble strains but faintly show how much to heaven and thee I owe.

Prayer of Thanks

adapted from Carol Penner

You invite us to faithful living when you teach us to pray. Guided by your Spirit, confident in your voice showing us the way, we give these gifts faithfully, joyfully, in the name of your son, Jesus. Amen.

Satan, We're Gonna Tear Your Kingdom Down

1. ♪ Sa - tan, we're gon - na tear your king-dom
2. The preach-ers are gon - na preach your king-dom
3. The dea - cons are gon - na pray your king-dom
4. The moth - ers are gon - na moan your king-dom

down. ♪ Sa - tan, we're gon-na tear your king-dom
down. The preach-ers are gon-na preach your king-dom
down. The dea - cons are gon-na pray your king-dom
down. The moth - ers are gon-na moan your king-dom

down. You've been build-ing your king-dom all o - ver this

land. Sa - tan, we're gon-na tear your king-dom down.

Hymn of Sending

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

Be thou my vision, o God of my heart;
Nought be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee, my soul is assured.
Mother and Father, thy daughter and son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heav'n's joys, o bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, o ruler of all.

Benediction

Postlude

Our Father

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

News to Note

The First UCC Transition Team is Moving Forward!

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

1. Who are we now?
2. Who are our neighbors?
3. 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.

Updates:

- We are beginning to break apart the Local Church profile document and identify data options for completing each section about "Who are we now?"
- We have completed 17 community interviews this week as a way to gather outside perspectives on "Who is our neighbor?"
- We hosted three community engagement sessions via zoom this past week. The questions discussed included:
 1. What has emerged as most important to you, given the events of the past year?
 2. What have you learned about our church community during this time?
 3. What are you most concerned about for yourself? For our church? For the wider community?
 4. What response do you wish to see or hear from the church right now?

We will be hosting more community engagement sessions with our congregation in September - look to the Chronicle and weekly bulletins for dates and times to join! If you would prefer to send your answers to these questions directly with the team, please email your responses to transitionteam@firstucc.org. We want to hear from you!

First UCC Women's Group

ZOOM Meeting to be held Tuesday September 8.

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, September 8 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 email 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, or call/text me at 507-412-7861. We look forward to having you join us. Judy Kinstad, Coordinator

Children's Faith Formation Bags

Hello Children's Faith Formation Families! In these weeks leading up to this different-looking school year, and 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.

This week, gratitude bags are waiting for you to come pick them up! 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!

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.

Laura Baker Volunteers Needed

Laura Baker Services Association is in great need of caring volunteers. Volunteers play an important part in the success of Laura Baker Services, and in the lives of clients. Whether it's sharing your time with a client, playing a game or going for a walk and fostering a friendship along the way, you can make a difference! To learn more, or sign up to volunteer, please click [here](#).

Send Some Love to the CAC

Pastors Lauren and Wendy heard a request to send notes, words and prayers of appreciation for the staff and volunteers at the CAC (Community Action Center). Executive Director Scott Wopata shared in a Northfield Area Interfaith Association meeting that the staff is stretched thin and words of encouragement and prayers would be much appreciated from their partners. You can address a note to Community Action Center, 1651 Jefferson Parkway, Northfield, MN 55057.

Local Movie Opportunity to Learn About Northfield

Learn about the experiences of some members of our community through Cecilia Cornejo's new film, *WAYS OF BEING HOME ~ BETWEEN NORTHFIELD & MALTRATA*.

The movie shows Wednesday, September 2, and until Tuesday, September 8. You can watch the film in English or Spanish, but you first must register to get the proper link, [here](#).

While the film is showing free of charge, a donation to Northfield Supporting Neighbors (NSN), a local organization providing funds to families facing hardship stemming from immigration-related matters would be welcome.

ISAIAH

"When you pray, move your feet" (an African proverb John Lewis liked to quote). Register to vote so you can vote your values, and apply for an absentee ballot so you have this at least as an option heading into uncertain times. (You can do both [here](#)) Contact representatives, making the case for cherished values, and engage in the political process.

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.