

First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation
March 21, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Sonata in E Major: Siciliano
Kay Sahlin, flute

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Testimony and Welcome

Randy Hachfeld

Announcements and Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music

Healer of Our Every Ill

Marty Haugen



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

Call to Confession

One: Let us acknowledge our need to restore and renew our own holy vessels, especially this holy container of life on which we live—this very planet.

Sung Call to Confession

**Out of the depths, O God, we call to you.
Wounds of the past remain, affecting all we do.
Facing our lives, we need your love so much.
Here in this community, heal us by your touch.**

Prayer of Confession

Life-giving God,

In the beginning, you created this universe with a phrase, “Let it be...”

and the waters and dry land, the sky and the creatures were formed.

You set humanity among these wonders and invited us to care and honor all things.

We have not successfully answered that call.

Seeing the abundance as a feast that would never end, we gorged ourselves,

taking more than we could replenish at a rate that could not be sustained.

We are frightened, which is partly why we are slow to accept it.

**But we now are witnesses to the forces of a world more broken than when we inherited it:
water, wind, and wave, fire, drought, and earthquake
that signal it is time to pay attention and to make real change.
Too often we think there is nothing we can do—that the change required is too great.
It all feels overwhelming and so we look away, sometimes even from the small things that could make
a difference for our own community.**

Help us, Healer.

Show us our ability to chart a different course.

Forgive our inaction.

Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care for one another.

In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

Silent Prayer

Sung Response

God of the loving heart, we praise your name.

Dance through our lives and loves; anoint with Spirit flame.

Your light illumines each familiar face.

Here in this community, meet us with your grace.

Words of Assurance

Know this: we are asked to do hard things, to make changes, knowing we are capable.

No. Matter. What.

We can change in order to heal this jewel planet called home.

The calm of Christ in the storm is available.

For you, for me, for all.

Take a deep breath in to let this truth fill you...

and breathe out with the relief of assurance.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn

Dear God, Creator of Our Kind

Rest

(see next page)

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.

Dear God, Creator of Our Kind

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1807-1892

REST 8.6.8.8.6
Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927



Dear God, cre - a - tor of our kind, For-give our fool - ish
In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, Be - side the Syr - ian
Drop thy still dews of qui - et - ness, Till all our striv - ings
Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire Thy cool - ness and thy



ways. Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind; In
sea, The gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, Let
cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, And
balm; Let sense be dumb, let flesh re - tire: Speak



pur - er lives thy serv - ice find, In deep - er rev - erence, praise.
us, like them, with - out a word, Rise up and fol - low thee.
let our or - dered lives con - fess The beau - ty of thy peace.
through the earth - quake wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

Anthem

Seafarers' Psalm

Malcolm Williamson (1931-2003)

Refrain: They that go down to the sea in ships and do business in great waters:
These men see the works of the Lord and his wonders in the deep.

For at his word the stormy wind ariseth; which lifteth up the waves thereof.

They are carried up to the heaven, and down again to the deep.

Their soul melteth away because of the trouble.

They reel to and fro and stagger like a drunken man and are at their wit's end.

So when they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, he delivereth them out of their distress.

For he maketh the storm to cease, so that the waves thereof are still.

Then are they glad because they are at rest,

And so he bringeth them unto the haven where they would be. —Psalm 107:23-30

Scripture	Matthew 8:18 - 27	Mandy Everhart
Sermon		Rev. Wendy Vander Hart
Prayer Hymn	<i>There Is a Balm in Gilead</i>	African-American spiritual

**There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain.***

**If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all. *Refrain.***

Sung Call to Prayer

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, o God;

All: **God, hear my voice.**

Healing Prayer Time

You are invited to share prayers for healing with the congregation using the link found in the Chat.

Prayer for the healing hands

**God of compassion and love,
We offer you all our suffering and pain.
Give us strength to bear our weakness,
Healing even when there is no cure,
Peace in the midst of turmoil
And love to fill the spaces in our lives. Amen.**

Response

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, o God;

All: **God, hear my voice.**

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.

Mission Moment

One Great Hour of Sharing

Offertory

Prelude in E Flat Minor

J.S. Bach

Prayer of Thanks

Holy giver of all good gifts, bless now this offering that great hours of labor have made possible. Bless the drops that become mighty rivers of grace and transformation. Bless the vision of a world transformed. Let a shining river of love flow through us to a waiting world, in Christ's name. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

As Water to the Thirsty
(see page 8)

Oasis

Benediction

Postlude

Children of the Heavenly Father
Andrea Een, violin; Kay Sahlin, flute

Daniel Kallman

We are so glad you joined us for worship today!

We will gather in Breakout Rooms for conversation and community following the Postlude.

News to Note

If you are new to First UCC, welcome!

Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Please consider filling out this [“virtual visitor card”](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about this community. Questions? Please contact Pastor Wendy or Pastor Lauren.

Lenten Small Groups after worship TODAY

Following worship for the Sundays in this Lenten season, you are invited to remain for small group conversations about different facets and expressions of healing. Breakout rooms will be used to be with each other after a brief presentation of the healing focus for discussion.

Upcoming Lenten Worship Dates

- Palm Parade, Saturday March 27
 - Meet in the church parking lot at 2:30 p.m. with your vehicle decorated with Hosannas, streamers, and balloons. Palms will be distributed
 - The parade will commence and follow [this route](#).
 - [Sign up here](#) for the Palm Parade.
 - If you miss the parade, palms will be available for pick up at the office entrance/south door to the church.
- Palm/Passion Sunday, March 28, Zoom worship at 10:30 a.m.

- Maundy Thursday, April 1, Zoom worship at 6:30 p.m.
- Good Friday, April 2, watch for a podcast
- Easter, April 4, Zoom worship at 10:30 a.m

ISAIAH

An action we urge this week **to be better stewards of God's creation:** Endorse the [Land Stewardship Project, online petition](#) incentivizing 100% healthy soil farming in MN. The petition will be submitted in support [HF 701](#), a bill ISAIAH-affiliated Rep Todd Lippert introduced in the MN House this week.

An action we urge this week **to enable us to care for ourselves and our families:** Support paid safe and sick time as embodied in [HF 7](#) (& its Senate companion [SF 29](#)) with calls or email to its ISAIAH-affiliated, author [Rep Liz Bolton](#) & your local representatives (for most [Rep Todd Lippert](#), and Sen [Rich Draheim](#)) as these bills works their way through the committee process.

Questions about legislation or voicing your views? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

Mental Health First Aid Training - April 17

Through the support of First UCC's Care Ministry Team and the Healthy Community Initiative, Mental Health First Aid Training will be available as a virtual course on Saturday, April 17 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Prior to the course, participants will be asked to complete an online session of about 2 hours. This internationally recognized program is open to First UCC members as well as community members.

To register for the class, click [this form \(forms.gle/c5nhatupJm4oYz9VA\)](#) . If you have questions, please contact Kathy Sandberg at ksandberg15@outlook.com or 507-210-2219. There is no charge for the class.

CAC Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

This month, the Community Action Center is excited to celebrate the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, now in its 40th year! Through education and advocacy efforts, MN FoodShare brings food insecurity and poverty to light throughout our state. Their goal for this campaign is to raise \$100,000, which will allow them to continue to support our neighbors in ways they need it most. Follow this [link](#) to see how you can help.

Giving to the Church

In this time of pandemic, 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 and complete the [electronic giving authorization form](#) and mailing it to the church % "The Treasurer." 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: Barbara Crouter (507-645-6592); Linda Larson (612-709-6795); Elizabeth O'Sullivan (507-321-1221); Bill Poehlmann (507-645-5422); Katharine Powers (651-492-5488); Kathy Sandberg (507-210-2219); Jan Shoger (507-645-5236); Kellee Tussing (952-210-4028); Gina Washburn (507-210-8270); Bonnie and Larry Fowler (507-645-6930).

+ + +

First United Church of Christ Leadership and Staff

Ministers—all the people

Moderator—Sam Steinberg

Interim Senior Minister—Wendy Vander Hart

Minister for Congregational Life—Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music—Chris Brunelle

Organist—Theo Wee

Sexton—Mark Fischer

Spirit Voices Director/Arts Coordinator—Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Director of Communications & Operations—Green Bouzard

Tech Steward—Ben Gottfried

As Water to the Thirsty 432

Unison F6 Fmaj7 F6 Gm7 F Fsus F

1 As wa - ter to the thirst - y, as beau - ty to the eyes, as
 2 Like calm in place of clam - or, like peace that fol - lows pain, like
 3 As sleep that fol - lows fe - ver, as gold in - stead of gray, as

Gm9 C Fmaj7 F6 Asus E A A7 Dm

strength that fol - lows weak - ness, as truth in - stead of lies, as
 meet - ing af - ter part - ing, like sun - shine af - ter rain, like
 free - dom af - ter bond - age, as sun - rise to the day, as

Gm C# C Am D# Dm Bbmaj7 Gm Bb C# C7

song - time and spring - time and sum - mer - time to be, so
 moon - light and star - light and sun - light on the sea, so
 home to the trav - eler and all we long to see, so

Am Dm2 Dm Gm C2 C Bb E A Gm7 C7 F

is my Lord, my liv - ing Lord, so is my Lord to me.

WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-)
 MUSIC: T. Brian Coleman (1920-)

Words © 1979 Hope Publishing Company
 Music © 1979 Stainer & Bell Ltd. and the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (UK) (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

OASIS
 7.6.7.6.6.6.4.4.6.