

First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation
May 2, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#).

Prelude *Prelude in G Minor* J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Testimony and Welcome Judy Bond

Announcements and Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music *The Fountain of Life* Marty Haugen (2002)

Love is flowing from the fountain of life.
Peace is pouring from the fountain of life.
Hope is springing from the fountain of life.

Call to Worship Thom Shuman (adapted)

One: Day by day, God leads us:
**Many: to those pools of peace where we can
gather with our friends and strangers.**

One: Day by day, Jesus calls us:
**Many: to give ourselves in service,
to anoint others with hope.**

One: Day by day, the Spirit shows us:
**Many: the people we might be,
the community we might become.**

Opening Hymn *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* Borning Cry

**I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
To see your life unfold.**

**When you found the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God,
To whom you now belong.**

**I was there when you were but a child
With a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off
And find where demons dwell.**

**Should you find someone to share your time
And you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
From dusk till rising sun.**

I was there to hear your bawling cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
To see your life unfold.

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.

Rite of Confirmation

Invitation

Acts of Baptism

Affirmation of Baptismal Promises

In addition to some of you being baptized with water, all of you are being confirmed, which is an affirmation of promises made on your behalf when you were baptized. We now invite you to affirm the baptismal vows of this church:

Do you desire to be confirmed into this Christian community?

If so, say, "We do, with the help of God."

Do you promise, with the grace of God, to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God?

If so, say, "We do, with the help of God."

Do you promise to follow in the path of Jesus, to resist the powers of oppression and evil, to be Christ's disciple, and to witness the Good News of God's love as best you are able?

If so, say, "We do, with the help of God."

Do you promise to grow in faith, to honor the church as well as diverse religious traditions, and to journey with this community in relationship with God?

If so, say, "We do, with the help of God."

Acts of Confirmation

Congregational Affirmation

Do you, congregation gathered here in worship, affirm the words that the parents and guardians spoke on your behalf at the Confirmation ritual yesterday, promising your friendship and prayers to these confirmands on their journey of faith; extending to them the heart and hand of Christian love, welcoming them, and including them in our shared ministry and life?

If so please say, "We do and we will, as siblings of Christ."

Reading of the Covenant

**We covenant together with God and one another,
trusting in God's continuing guidance
to seek to understand and do God's will,
to explore the mystery of Christ,
and to witness to God's reconciling love.**

Scripture

Acts 2:42-47

Ed Langerak

Sermon

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

Prayer Hymn

Take, O Take Me As I Am

Take Me As I Am

**Take, O take me as I am;
Summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart
And live in me. (repeat)**

Sung Call to Prayer

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

The Prayers

You are invited to share prayers with the congregation using the Zoom chat function.

Pastoral Prayer

Silent prayers and reflection

Sung Response

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

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.

Offertory

Lord, Help the Poor and the Needy

arr. Alice Parker (1925-)

Lord, help the poor and the needy in this land.
In that great getting-up morning we shall face another sun.
Lord, help the poor and the needy in this land.

Lord, help the widows and the orphans in this land.
In that great getting-up morning we shall face another sun.
Lord, help the widows and the orphans in this land.

Lord, help the sick and the homeless in this land.
In that great getting-up morning we shall face another sun.
Lord, help the sick and the homeless in this land.

Prayer of Thanks

**God who calls us into community, bless now the gifts residing in each person gathered here.
Multiply our talents, bear fruit through our acts of service, and dedicate us to your cause of
love and justice in the world. Amen.**

Hymn of Sending

One Foot / Lead With Love

Melanie DeMore (2016)

Benediction

Postlude

Song of Joy

Christopher Boodle (1952-)

We are so glad you joined us for worship today! While the New Members class gathers, breakout rooms will be opened for friendship and conversation. We hope you will stay!

2021 Confirmands

Eloise Arnold
Corrie Demas
Addison Doeden
Avery Eastvold
Owen Funke
Ani Gottfried
Stephen Kallestad
Reuben Menk

Harper Miller
Sylvie Muniak
Annika Nguyen
Christopher Nuebel
MacKenzie Perkins
Annika Reister
Cecilia (CJ) Riehle-Merrill

News to Note

Welcome to worship at First UCC! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#). Other questions about our community? Please contact Pastor Wendy (pastorwendy@firstucc.org) or Pastor Lauren (pastorlauren@firstucc.org).

New Member Orientation

Join us! First UCC will welcome new members next Sunday on May 9, during worship on Zoom. A New Member Orientation session will be held TODAY via Zoom after the worship, simply let Pastor Wendy know in the chat, and you will be assigned to the New Member Orientation breakout room after worship has ended.

Save the Date: May 16 Forum on Transition to Hybrid Worship

The First UCC COVID Task Force has decided to initiate a "soft opening" to hybrid worship on May 23. For four Sundays, May 23 - June 13, we will test livestream/Zoom worship with limited in-person attendees in the Sanctuary. This hybrid model will change the experience of both settings. What we had been accustomed to pre-COVID in the Sanctuary will be different. What we have gotten used to in Zoom will change too. And we will learn and grow together! We are planning a forum following zoom worship on May 16 to convey more details. We hope you will plan to attend and share your thoughts and questions.

Pentecost Video Project

Would you like to be part of our Pentecost Celebration on Sunday, May 23? Since we are launching hybrid worship that day, we want to create a shared experience that ties us together. We are looking for folks willing to video themselves "sharing the Spirit," similar to the passing of the light we did for Christmas Eve. If you are game or want to learn more, please [sign up here](#). The deadline for submission of videos is May 17.

ISAIAH

Target just announced that its CEO will earn \$77.5 million in compensation this year. That's up from \$21.6 million last year! The top 1% have tended to do very well this pandemic year, while COVID has exposed and worsened needs many others have. Asking the very wealthy to pay their fair share of taxes could better fund healthcare, childcare, paid family and medical leave, housing, and environmental justice. Call or write your state senator and urge them to budget increases funded by the new fifth-tier tax on the very wealthy that the MN House has passed and the Governor supports. The three branches of government must agree by May 17 on a budget for the next 2 years and any tax changes. [Find who your senator is here](#). Questions about legislation or voicing your views? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued giving during this time of pandemic! First UCC's ministry continues thanks to your generosity. 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.

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).

For additional news and announcements, please visit firstucc.org/contact-us/the-chronicle/ to subscribe to weekly editions of The Chronicle (First UCC's e-news) and to view recent issues.

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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