

First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation
May 9, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#).
For ASL interpretation, please use the “pin” function in Zoom for the video of Patty Sheehan

Prelude *Oh, Mother God* Karen Drucker
Lori Dokken, piano and voice

Testimony and Welcome Jane McWilliams

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

One: God is among us wherever there is compassion and love

Many: in our church community, among friends or family.

One: God is still speaking in hope and equality

Many: in the world, among those who act for peace and justice.

One: God is making a place for us, a home with many rooms

Many: in the mystery of all that is, beyond what we can know or imagine.

One: God is present around us, within us, and between us.

Many: Let us respond as loving servants to God!

Opening Hymn *Open Your Eyes to the Image of God* Wendy
(see page 2)
Lori Dokken and Judi Vinar

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.

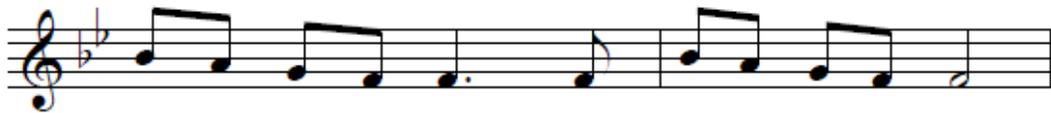
OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE IMAGE OF GOD

Adam M. L. Tice

WENDY
Sally Ann Morris



1. O - pen your eyes to the im - age of God.
2. O - pen your ears to the sing - ing of God.
3. O - pen your hands to the heal - ing of God.



Look a - round and find Christ's bod - y in our midst.
Lis - ten to the voice: God's Spir - it in our song.
Stand on ho - ly ground: cre - a - tion born a - new.



O - pen your eyes to the im - age of God:
O - pen your ears to the sing - ing of God:
O - pen your hands to the heal - ing of God:



bod - y, soul, and spir - it, made whole and ho - ly,
breath - ing, ris - ing voic - es, made whole and ho - ly,
life and love and be - ing, made whole and ho - ly,



born in the im - age of God.
born in the im - age of God.
born in the im - age of God.

Copyright © 2008 by GIA Publications, Inc. • All Rights Reserved.

Rite of Confirmation & Welcoming of New Members

Invitation

Today we celebrate a new and renewing church community as we welcome confirmands and neighbors into the membership of our congregation. Today we celebrate with Reuben Menk and Cecilia (CJ) Riehle-Merrill, who will affirm their baptisms, and with Nancy Carpenter and Cheryl Rempel, who are becoming new members.

Affirmation of Baptismal Promises and Covenant of Membership

We now invite Reuben and CJ, Nancy and Cheryl, to affirm the baptismal vows of this church:

Do you desire to continue your journey of faith in 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 journey with this community in relationship with God, to participate in the life, ministry and mission of First UCC as we care for one another, study and learn together, and work for justice and peace? *If so, say, "We do, with the help of God."*

Blessings for Confirmands and New Members

The congregation is invited to raise your hands in blessing as we pray over confirmands and new members.

Congregational Affirmation

Do you, the congregation gathered here in worship, promise your friendship and prayers to these confirmands and new members on their journey of faith, and extend 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

John 14: 1-4

Leota Goodney

Sermon

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Prayer Hymn

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

Austin

1. Like a mother who has borne us,
Held us close in her delight,
Fed us freely from her body,
God has called us into life.

3. Though as children we have wandered,
Placed our trust in power and might,
Left behind our brothers, sisters,
God still calls us into life.

2. Like a father who has taught us,
Grasped our hand and been our guide,
Lifted us and healed our sorrows,
God has walked with us in life.

4. When we offer food and comfort,
Grasp our neighbor's hand in love,
Tread the path of peace and justice,
God still walks with us in life.

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

Somebody's Praying

John G. Elliott

Prayer of Thanks

Holy One, you are the giver of every good gift. In you, we are home. Receive our gifts, given out of the bounty of our hearts. May these gifts become blessings for others as they have been blessings for us. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil

Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than
hate; light is strong-er than dark - ness;
life is strong-er than death. Vic-'try is ours, vic-t'ry is
ours through him who loved us. Vic-'try is
ours, vic-t'ry is ours through him who loved us.

Text: Desmond Tutu, b.1931, ©; adapt. by John L. Bell, b.1949

Tune: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, Irregular, John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1996, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Benediction

Postlude

Circle Game

Joni Mitchell

We are so glad you joined us for worship today! Please join us in breakout rooms for friendship and conversation. We hope you will stay!

New Members

Cheryl Rempel, originally from southern California, learned to appreciate the Midwest when she attended nursing school in Illinois. She had several nursing positions over the years before returning to college, where she surprised herself by getting a chemistry degree and subsequently working as a chemist. Prior to moving to Northfield, she and Nancy Carpenter (they met when attending Elmhurst College) lived in Morris, MN, for 30+ years. Cheryl grew up in the most progressive/liberal branch of the Mennonite Church, which shaped her understanding of what it means to be part of a faith community.
Sponsor: Liz Hankins

Nancy Carpenter was raised as a Unitarian in the Bible Belt (Oklahoma). After a two-year stint at a college in the South, she fled north to Chicago, met Cheryl Rempel and thus began an almost 40-year friendship. She moved to Minnesota and was an evangelist of organic chemistry at the University of Minnesota Morris for some 30+ years. Retirement coincided with COVID and connections to Northfield led her to First UCC via Zoom. Now she and Cheryl live here with a few cats for company.
Sponsor: Ed Langerak

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).

A Word on Mother's Day

On this Mother's Day, we recognize all that this day can bring up for people: various feelings, memories, and experiences. Please take this prayer, adapted from Rev. Leslie Nipps, with you as an acknowledgment of the complexity of this day. We see you. Know that you are loved and precious to God, and supported by this community of people:

On this Mother's Day, we give thanks to God for the divine gift of parenthood in all its diverse forms. We pray for all of the parents among us today; for our own parents, those living and those who have passed away; for the parents who loved us and for those who fell short of loving us fully; for all who hope to be parents someday and for those whose hope to have children has been frustrated; for all parents who have lost children; for all people who have parented others in

any way--those who have been our substitute parents and we who have done so for those in need; and for the earth that bore us and provides us with our sustenance. We pray this all in the name of God, our great and loving Parent. Amen.

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. [Read the Hybrid Worship Information & FAQ on the firstucc.org website.](#)

Last Chance to Contribute to the 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.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, May 11: Women's Group, 10 a.m. via Zoom. Contact Judy Kinstad at WJK@Q.com for link.

Saturday, May 15: Garden Clean Up ([sign up here](#))

Sunday, May 16: Forum on Hybrid Worship on Zoom following worship

ISAIAH

The Minnesota legislative session ends May 17. A two year budget is needed to avoid a June 1 government shutdown. Call or write your state Senator and urge them to endorse budget increases funded by the new fifth tier tax on the very wealthy that the House has passed and the Governor supports. Ask them to pass healthcare and childcare support for all in need, paid family and medical leave, more help for affordable housing, and environmental legislation. [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.

Music printed and streamed with permission via OneLicense A-722468

+ + +

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