



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

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

**Prelude** *Voluntary in F: Vivace* John Stanley (1713-1786)

**Testimony and Welcome** Leona Openshaw

**Announcements and Lighting of the Candle**

**Gathering Music** *Where Two or Three are Gathered*

**Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there, I am there.**

**Call to Worship** Sarah Are

One: We are from north and south.

**Many: We are from tiny apartments and expansive homes.**

One: We are from this city and from others far away.

**Many: We are from big families and dinners made for one.**

One: We are from stages of grief and stages of love.

**Many: We are from hot summers and cold winters.**

One: We are from kitchens with passed-down recipes,  
and front porches with old, familiar swings.

**Many: We are from the dust of the earth and the stars of the sky.**

One: We are from a lot of places, but today we are here.

**Many: Today we are together.**

One: Holy God, gather us in.

**Opening Hymn**

*God, Creation's Great Designer*  
verses 1, 2, and 4

#371, Holy Manna

1. **God, creation's great designer,  
Architect, and artisan,  
Dreamer, builder, and refiner--  
How we marvel at your plan.  
You have formed us to reflect you,  
Filled us with your Spirit's breath,  
Freed us to accept, reject you,  
And in Christ defeated death.**
2. **Hear our thanks for those who  
founded  
In this place a church for praise.  
Firm in Christ their faith was grounded  
As they lived their earthly days.  
Builders, they, in brick and stone-work,  
Walls supporting roof and floors,  
Praising you in all their own work--  
Solid steeple, open doors.**
4. **Shape us as your congregations,  
Called together, sent afar,  
So as people or as nations  
We can serve you where we are.  
O accept the praise we bring you,  
Bless the work of human hands.  
Hear the hymns our voices sing you,  
Echoing through years and lands.**

**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.**

**Recognition of High School Graduates**

Max Kasten  
Halle Maaki-Waller  
Saija Maaki-Waller

**Scripture**

Genesis 2: 4b-15

Shawn Nuebel

**Sermon**

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

**Refrain**

**Jesus a new commandment has given us  
That we should love each other just as our God loves us**

1. **The clear sign of all true Christians is the way they love each other.  
The clear sign of all true Christians is the way they love each other.**
2. **Those who do not love their neighbors do not truly love their Savior.  
Those who do not love their neighbors do not truly love their Savior. *Refrain***
3. **Christ, the Light, the Truth, and true Life, bids us share our love and pardon.  
Christ, the Light, the Truth, and true Life, bids us share our love and pardon.**
4. **Let us all forgive each other as by God we are commanded.  
Let us all forgive each other as by God we are commanded. *Refrain***

**The Prayers**

*We will pray in four parts. First, we will breathe. Second, we will offer prayers for the world, for the people we love, for the concerns we have. Third, we will offer prayers of thanks and gratitude. Finally, we will pray the Prayer of Jesus. In between we will sing. You are invited to share prayers with the congregation by vocalizing in the Sanctuary or online using the Zoom chat function.*

**Sung Response**

*More Than We Can Ask*  
(based on Ephesians 3: 20)

Refrain: **More than we can ask, more than we can ask, more than we can ask or imagine.**

One: Hear, o hear our prayer. Many: **Hear, o hear our prayer.**

**Prayer of Jesus**

*You are invited to 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**

*Chorale Prelude on 'Hyfrydol'*

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

## Prayer of Thanks

**We don't know how, God, but some way, somehow our giving is good for us. Certainly it is good for the people impacted by the ministry our giving supports. But in this moment, we give thanks for the ways in which giving of ourselves feeds us, nurtures us, and helps you. Amen.**

## Hymn of Sending

*God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*  
verses 1, 2, and 4

#355, Hyfrydol

1. God the Spirit, guide and guardian,  
Wind-spiced flame and hovering dove,  
Breath of life and voice of prophets,  
Sign of blessing, power of love:  
Give to those who lead your people  
Fresh anointing of your grace;  
Send them forth as bold apostles  
To your church in every place.
2. Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd,  
Word made flesh, love crucified,  
Teacher, healer, suffering servant,  
Friend of sinners, foe of pride:  
In your tending may all pastors  
learn and live a shepherd's care;  
Grant them courage and compassion  
Shown through word and deed and  
prayer.
4. Triune God, mysterious being,  
undivided and diverse,  
Deeper than our minds can fathom,  
Greater than our creeds rehearse:  
Help us in our varied callings  
Your full image to proclaim  
That our ministries uniting  
May give glory to your name.

## Benediction

## Postlude

*Prelude on 'Hyfrydol'*

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

**We are so glad you joined us for worship today! Please join us in breakout rooms on Zoom or in the parking lot/on the lawn at the church. We hope you will stay!**

## News to Note

### Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. We are transitioning to a hybrid worship model in which we welcome a limited number of people into the church sanctuary while others join us online via livestream. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are glad to have you here! Are you visiting us today? [Fill out our virtual visitor card.](#)

### Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. Give online by visiting [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org) and clicking the "Give Now!" button under the "Giving" tab, or send in your gifts via mail.

### News & Announcements

Keep up-to-date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! [Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter](#) and read recent issues, and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org).

### This Week at First UCC

Wednesday, June 2

8 p.m. Facilities (Zoom)

Saturday, June 5

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Electronics Recycling (200 Orchard St S)

12 p.m. – 3 p.m. PRIDE in the Park (Central Park)

### Considering a Land Acknowledgement Statement

As part of commitments made in the First UCC Racial Justice Pledge, on May 25 the church council recommended adoption of a Land Acknowledgement Statement. [You can read the statement here.](#) Watch for updates on a special congregational meeting, when members will vote on final adoption of the statement. If you are interested in this issue, feel free to contact any of the Task Force members – Judy Bond, Holly Fischer, Dorothea Hrossowyc, Margit Johnson, and Jane McWilliams.

### ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)

Our hearts have been heavy this week with the remembrances surrounding George Floyd's murder a year ago, yet it has also produced new understanding about inequities and new energy in the fight for a society serving the needs of everyone. The state legislature is finalizing bills this week ahead of a special session in mid-June. Senators have been reluctant to endorse change in the status quo. Please contact your Senator and the Senate leadership and urge them to endorse the issues you are concerned about! Questions? Email [isaiah@firstucc.org](mailto:isaiah@firstucc.org)

### Race Matters in Healthcare June 8 on Zoom

Join First UCC, along with co-sponsors ARLA of Bethel and St. John's Women, for a presentation and discussion on June 8 at 9:30 a.m. led by Dr. Rod Christensen on racial inequities and the American healthcare system. "Race Matters in Healthcare" will take place on Zoom, and registration is required. [Click here to register.](#)

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Call to worship written by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org  
"Four Rivers of Eden" by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

**Thanks to this Week's Leaders:**

**Ushers:** Anne Meyer Ruppel, Linda Larson, Gary Wagenbach,  
Linda Wagenbach, Elise Eslinger, Peggy Sheldon

**Testimony & Welcome:** Leona Openshaw

**Reader:** Shawn Nuebel

**Sound Tech:** Ben Reister

**Digital Zoom Host:** Carl Henry

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**First UCC Leadership & 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

**Director of Communications & Operations:** Green Bouzard

**Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator:** Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

**Sexton:** Mark Fischer