



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation
June 20, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

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

Prelude

Now Thank We All Our God

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Testimony and Welcome

Theo Wee

Announcements and Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music

One: I woke up this morning with my mind

All: Stayed on Jesus,

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus.

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus.

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

One: Singin' and prayin' with my mind
All: Stayed on Jesus,
Singin' and prayin' with my mind stayed on Jesus.
Singin' and prayin' with my mind stayed on Jesus.
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

Call to Worship

One: We've come this far by faith,
Many: **And we still have a ways to go.**
One: God has shown us a righteous and just path.
Many: **We gather to be reminded of God's dream for all of God's children.**
One: Black, Brown, White—all beloved in the sight of God.
Many: **May we gain inspiration to do our part to live this truth.**

Opening Hymn

We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

Passion Chorale

We yearn, o Christ, for wholeness
And for your healing touch;
Too long have we felt helpless;
Our burdens seemed too much.
Forgetting all pretenses
We make our pleadings heard,
In hope and expectation
Await your gracious Word.

We long to have companions
Who travel by our side,
Strong friends to call and answer
With whom we are allied.
As we lift up each other
When struggles lay us low,
Community develops;
Our faith and caring grow.

We need your living presence,
O Christ of Galilee,
A presence that revives us
And sets our spirits free.
No longer are we fearful;
Your love pervades each place.
Empower us with courage
To claim your healing grace.

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.

Scripture

Luke 1:46-55

Sarah Forster

Sermon

"We, Too, Sing of Freedom"

Rev. Traci Blackmon

Prayer Hymn

O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face

Roseberry

verses 1 and 3

(see page 6)

Sung Call to Prayer

One: As your spirit moved upon the waters,

All: God, let your spirit move in us.

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

Pastoral Prayer

Silent prayers and reflection

Sung Response

One: As your spirit moved upon the waters,

All: God, let your spirit move in us.

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

Wondrous Love

arr. Winston G. Cassler (1906-1990)

Andrea Een, viola

Prayer of Thanks

Holy One, may the offering of ourselves be part of your story of liberation for all your people. We dedicate our lives to being your courageous freedom allies in the world. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Guide My Feet

African-American spiritual

**Guide my feet while I run this race, (x3)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**I'm your child while I run this race, (x3)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Stand by me while I run this race, (x3)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

Benediction

Postlude

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
Marty Hodel, trumpet

Paul Manz

We are so glad you joined us for worship today! Please join us for a forum following worship focused on the [Land Acknowledgement Statement](#) recently considered by the church council.

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 (Zoom only today, but returning to hybrid next week). 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 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.

This Week at First UCC

Sunday, June 20

7:10 p.m. Fightin' Apostles v.s. Bethel Lutheran (Sechler Park 1)

Tuesday, June 22

3-5 p.m. Pastor Lauren Office Hours (Bridge Square)

7 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, June 23

3-5 p.m. Pastor Wendy Office Hours (Bridge Square)

Thursday, June 24

7 a.m. Say Their Names Intervention (Bridge Square)

Sunday, June 27

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Resumes; [register to attend](#)

Considering a Land Acknowledgement Statement

As part of commitments made in the First UCC Racial Justice Pledge, the church council recommended adoption of a Land Acknowledgement Statement. Following worship today, Racial Justice Task Force members will give a presentation and entertain questions and wonderings about the statement. You are invited to stay! [Read the Land Acknowledgement statement on the First UCC website.](#) Or find the draft below. If you can't stay today, the forum will be repeated on Wednesday June 30 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

DRAFT Land Acknowledgment Statement

Here at First UCC Northfield we stand on the homelands of the Wahpekute Band and other bands of the Dakota Nation. We honor the people who have lived in harmony with this land down through the generations to the present.

This congregation acknowledges that our church was founded and built where the Wahpekute and other Dakota bands once lived. We have benefitted from the extermination and forced removal of the Dakota from their homeland Mni Sota Makoce.

We acknowledge the ongoing injustices against Indigenous Peoples. We resolve to interrupt this legacy, and will continue with acts of healing through our commitment to hear the stories about this place and those who lived here for generations before us, to learn about Native history, current stories, and public policies, and to take appropriate action to begin repairing the injustices done to Indigenous Peoples locally, statewide, and nationally.

ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)

Celebrate Juneteenth by taking advantage of one of two free training sessions for "Race, Class Narrative Action." Sponsored by ISAIAH and available online, the trainings will take place Wed., June 22, 5:30- 7 p.m., or Thurs., June 25, 10-11:30 am. [Register for either here](#). Questions about putting your faith into action through social justice and advocacy? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

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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

Thanks to this Week's Leaders

Testimony & Welcome: Theo Wee

Reader: Sarah Forster

O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face

Shirley Erena Murray, 1981; rev. 1994

Unison

1 O God, we bear the im-print of your face: the col - ors of our
 2 Where we are torn and pulled a - part by hate be - cause our race, our
 3 O God, we share the im - age of the One whose flesh and blood are

skin are your de - sign, and what we have of beau-ty in our race as
 skin is not the same, while we are judged un - e - qual by the state and
 ours, what-ev - er skin; in Christ's hu - man - i - ty we find our own, and

man or wom-an, you a-lone de - fine, who stretched a liv - ing fab - ric
 vic-tims made be - cause we own our name, hu - man - i - ty re - duced to
 in your fam - i - ly our prop-er kin: Je - sus our broth-er we still

on our frame and gave to each a lan-guage and a name.
 lit - tle worth, dis - hon - ored is your liv - ing face on earth.
 cru - ci - fy; love is the lan-guage we must learn, or die.

Composer Bruce Neswick provided this setting at the request of The New Century Hymnal. Neswick, Organist-Choirmaster of Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral, Lexington, Kentucky, is a graduate of the Institute of Sacred Music of Yale University Divinity School.

Tune: ROSEBERRY 10.10.10.10.10.
 Bruce Neswick, 1994