



Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation
June 27, 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 *Air and Canon on 'Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether'* James Biery (1956-)

Testimony and Welcome Mary Ann Polley

Announcements and Lighting of the Candle

Call to Worship Sarah Are

A poetic call to worship, for one voice.

If you come into this place with the hope of growing deeper,
with the hope of connecting,
with the hope of glimpsing God,
and if all of those things take place,
and your spirit is moved,
and you swear God is near,
and you feel more than lucky for the gift of faith,
and then the service comes to an end,
and it's time for you to leave,
and you ask yourself,
"Where do we go from here?"
Then I would say to you,
"Go out into the world to love and to share and to learn,
but come back soon, because this is the beginning.
This is only the beginning.
So come on in. Fill your cup here. Be present here. God is here."
Let us worship our God.

Opening Hymn *How Firm a Foundation* #407, Foundation
verses 1, 2, 4, 5

**V1 How firm a foundation for you has been laid
By God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!
What more can God say than to you has been said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**V2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
For I am your God, I will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand
Upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand."**

V4 “When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace all-sufficient shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; for I have designed
Your soul to make pure just as gold is refined.”

V5 “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”

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
Sermon**

Ruth 1:1-22

Carol Rutz
Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

Prayer Hymn

Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether
verses 1 and 3

#337, Union Seminary

V1 Draw us in the Spirit’s tether,
For when humbly in your name,
Two or three are met together,
You are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Touch we now your garment’s hem.

V3 All our meals and all our living
Make as sacraments of you,
That by caring, helping, giving,
We may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We may serve with faith anew.

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.

Sung Amen

Offertory

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Calvin Hampton (1837-1984)

Prayer of Thanks

**Holy One, may our offerings be an answer to someone's prayer, someone's hurt, someone's need.
May the acts of giving and receiving be a blessing to us too. Amen.**

Hymn of Sending

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing
verses 1, 3

#459, Nettleton

**V1 Come, O Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unfailing love.**

**V3 O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
Wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for your very own.**

Benediction

Postlude

All People that on Earth Do Dwell

David Cherwien (1957-)

**We are so glad you joined us for worship today! Please join us in breakout rooms on Zoom.
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 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 27

6 and 7:10 p.m. Fightin' Apostles Double Header v.s. St. Dominic Johnny's and Trinity Blue (Sechler Park 2)

Tuesday, June 29

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

Wednesday, June 30

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

7 p.m. Draft Land Acknowledgement Statement Forum ([Join on Zoom](#))

Saturday, July 3

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

Sunday, July 4

10:30 a.m. Worship at Valley Grove (in-person only; no online worship)

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. You can read the statement at firstucc.org. The presentation and forum on the statement from last Sunday is available on [First UCC's Vimeo page](#). A repeat version of the forum will be held on [Wednesday, June 30, at 7 p.m. on Zoom](#).

ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)

The special session at the Minnesota legislature, but debates on final bills may extend into next week, and the year's legislation won't adequately address needs in a variety of areas. Early this past week, ISAIAH prepared a list of actions it hoped people would take on a number of issues such as childcare, police accountability, and market bucks. Interested in participating? ISAIAH has provided scripts and information about who to contact. By the time you read this, you and others may have helped win victories in some areas that looked doubtful, such as more robust emission standards for cars! Visit <https://tinyurl.com/isaiahmnlegislature2021> for the scripts and more info. Questions about legislation or voicing your views? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

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Call to Worship and Prayer written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
"Flow of Humanity" by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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

Ushers: Jane McWilliams, Beth Kallestad, Anne Larson,
Mary Rosenberg, Garda Kahn

Testimony & Welcome: Mary Ann Polley

Reader: Carol Rutz

Sound Tech: Reister Family

Digital Zoom Host: Lisa Sexton