



**First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,
Immigrant Welcoming Congregation
February 6, 2022
10:30 a.m.**

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

Prelude

Prelude

Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Music

The Kingdom of God

Austin C. Lovelace (1985)



Call to Worship

One: On this winter morning we gather together in faith.

Many: **In the warmth of God's goodness we meet to hear God's voice, to feel God's presence, and to know God's truth.**

One: On this winter morning we gather together in hope.

Many: **In the warmth of God's mercy we meet to strengthen our resolve, to create community, and to pronounce God's welcome.**

One: On this winter morning we gather together in love.

Many: **In the certainty of your embrace we meet to celebrate our community, to share our lives, and to be one in Christ.**

One: Come, let us worship God together.

Opening Hymn

'Tis Winter Now; the Fallen Snow

#432 (Danby)

1. 'Tis winter now; the fallen snow
has left the heavens all coldly clear;
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,
And all the earth lies dead and drear.

2. And yet God's love is not withdrawn;
new life within the keen air breathes;
God's beauty paints the crimson dawn,
And clothes the boughs with glittering wreaths.

3. And though abroad the sharp winds blow,
and skies are chill, and frosts are keen,
Home closer draws its circle now,
and warmer glows the light within.

4. O God! who gives the winter's cold,
as well as summer's joyous rays,
Us warmly in your love enfold,
and keep us through life's wintry days.

Time With Children

Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.

All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.

Scripture

Luke 15: 11–24

Teigen Hoff

Sermon

Rev. Cindy Maddox

Prayer Hymn

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

#32 (Roeder)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars How does the creature say Awe How does the creature say Praise | 3. God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave How does the creature say Grace How does the creature say Thanks | 5. God of the neighbor God of the foe God of the pruning hook How does the creature say Love How does the creature say Peace |
| 2. God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast How does the creature cry Woe How does the creature cry Save | 4. God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal How does the creature say Care How does the creature say Life | 6. God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart How do your children say Joy How do your children say Home |

The Prayers

We will begin prayers in song, then a minister will pray, and there will be time for silent prayer. Then we will sing again. All joining worship on Zoom are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.

Sung Response

One: As your spirit moved upon the waters,
Many: God, let your spirit move in us.

Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to speak 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

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

There's a kindness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the head.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind,
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple we should take him at his word,
And our lives would be all sunshine in the sweetness of our Lord.

Fearful souls, why will you scatter like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander from a love so true and deep?
There is welcome for the sinner and more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Savior. There is healing in his blood.

Prayer of Thanks

Generous God, we are the Receivers: receivers of love, grace, and forgiveness. Accepting God, we are also the Givers: givers of time, talent, and resources. Accept these offerings for the work of your realm, with thanks for mercies received. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

This Bread Which We Break

Ray Makeever (1991)

This bread which we break This wine which we pour
This love in our hearts This faith in our mind
This meal that we eat This song that we sing

3
Sign of the cov - e - nant re - stored Bod - y and blood of Christ the Lord
Nour - ish the hopes of hu - man - kind Bod - y and blood for this de - signed
Share we with ev' - ry liv - ing thing Bod - y and blood to life we bring

Invitation & Telling the Story

Blessing the Meal

Sharing the Bread & Cup *(Please ready your bread and cup for partaking)*

Prayer After Communion

Hymn of Sending

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

#23 (In Babilone)

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.

There's no place where earthly sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgment given.

2. For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's word;
and our lives would show thanksgiving
for the goodness of our God.

Benediction

Postlude

Chaconne

Louis Couperin (1626-1661)

We are so glad you worshiped with us today!
Zoom breakout rooms are available for friendship and conversation after the service.
We hope you will stay!

News to Note

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. in person on Sundays, no registration required. Worship is also live streamed each week on Zoom. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are glad to have you here! Are you visiting 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 now.](#) 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 find First UCC on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Past issues of The Chronicle are available at [firstucc.org](#).

This Week at First UCC

Tuesday, February 8

10 a.m. First UCC Women's Group (Zoom; contact Judy Kinstad wjk@q.com for login information)

1-2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting (Zoom)

5 p.m. Overdose Grief Support Group (Big Room)

Wednesday, February 9

6:30 p.m. The Great Escape (Big Room)

7 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday, February 13

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship (In Person and Online)

1 – 5 p.m. Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) (Assembly Room)

February: Black History Month

Fifty years after the Thirteenth Constitutional amendment was passed by Congress, Black History Month, with roots in 1915, celebrates the achievements of Black Americans and their central role in U.S. history. Its formal recognition happened in 1976 when President Gerald Ford challenged

Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

At First UCC this month, we will use the bulletin to explore a few of those accomplishments, especially of Black leaders in the UCC. Smaller than the “tip of the iceberg,” these articles invite us to also explore our history as First UCCers, Minnesotans, and Americans, to expand what we know about the array of contributions by Black people.

Over decades, the United Church of Christ (and earlier through its predecessor the Congregational Church) has taken an active role in opposing racial injustice and embracing black leadership. One example comes to us through a man named Lemuel Haynes. Haynes was the child of an African father and a white mother, born in 1753 and bound in service until the age of 21 years. He was a passionate reader, especially of the Bible and books on theology. As an adolescent, he conducted services at the local church and even gave sermons of his own creation. Following his indenture, he enlisted as a Minuteman in the local militia. He was licensed to preach in 1780, ordained in the Congregational church in 1785, and served three congregations, confronting racism throughout that time. Nearly 150 years after Haynes’ death, a manuscript he wrote in 1776 was discovered. In that document, Haynes boldly stated “an African.....has an undeniable right to his Liberty” and went on to condemn slavery as a sin. Lemuel Haynes died in 1833 at the age of 80.

Set Up Recurring Online Giving for First UCC

It's easy to set up a recurring online gift for First UCC! A reminder that if you had an automatic gift set up through Suran Systems/Engage, all gifts were cancelled in that system December 31. You must arrange to set up your giving in our NEW online giving system, Breeze, or arrange for bill pay with your bank. Visit <https://firstucc.org/giving/donate-electronically-now/> for more information about how to set up your recurring gift. Questions? Call the church office at 507-645-7532 or email church@firstucc.org.

Opt In to the Online Directory

First UCC will soon be rolling out an online directory for church members, friends, and associate members through our church management software, Breeze! Before you are granted access, we invite you to indicate if you would like to be included in the online directory by [filling out this form](#). If you do not fill out the form and are a member, friend, or associate member, you will automatically be opted in, and your contact information will be available in the online directory. At a later date, you will be invited to create an account with Breeze. Through your account, you will be able to view the online directory, as well as edit your own information, manage your giving, and more. There's also an app for your phone! Stay tuned for more information. [Opt in or out of the online directory using this form](#).

ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)

The legislative session begins this week. Join Southern MN ISAIAH on Zoom on Friday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m. with ISAIAH affiliated legislators and guests to discuss legislative issues. The Friday, February 11 topic is headwaters and holistic food systems; [register for Friday, February 11](#). 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: Deb Gottfried

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Minister for Congregational Life: Rev. 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

Audio Visual Technician: Brynn Artley

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Thanks to this Week's Leaders



Reader: Teigan Hoff

Digital Zoom Host: Shawn Nuebel

Guest Musicians: Mary Carlson and Donna McMillan, vocals

Tech Team: Amazing Youth!

Worship Arts: Linda Gagnon