



"Elder Brother"

Jan Shoger 1959

**First United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,  
Immigrant Welcoming Congregation  
February 13, 2022  
10:30 a.m.**

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

**Prelude**

*Andante con moto*

R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Gathering Music**

*The Kingdom of God*

Austin C. Lovelace (1985)



**Call to Worship**

adapted from Roddy Hamilton

One: Let this be the welcoming place, the place of return  
**Many: and let it be built by Love that bends towards those who return here.**  
One: Let this be the place where we call each other home  
**Many: no matter where we've been or how far we've gone**  
One: for it is Love that has been waiting like a candle in the window  
ever lighting the way back  
**Many: and never willing to let go of the hope that each child will return home.**  
One: Let it be the place where the only response that feels right  
is to feast and celebrate  
**Many: and prepare the party for that which has been lost  
has returned to be among us once more.**

**Opening Hymn**

*O God, How We Have Wandered*

#202 (Passion Chorale)

1. O God, how we have wandered  
and hidden from your face;  
In foolishness have squandered  
your legacy of grace.  
But how, in exile dwelling,  
We turn with fear and shame,  
As distant but compelling,  
you call us each by name.

2. And now at length discerning  
the evil that we do,  
By faith we are returning  
with hope and trust in you.  
In haste you come to meet us,  
and home rejoicing bring,  
In gladness there to greet us  
with calf and robe and ring.

3. O God of all the living,  
both banished and restored,  
Compassionate, forgiving,  
our peace and hope assured.  
Grant now that our transgressing,  
our faithlessness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in blessing,  
in pardon, and in peace.

**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.**

**Anthem**

*This Is the Day of Rest*

John Bell (2002)

This is the day of rest, to use as God intended:  
Time to renew our faith and let our lives be mended;  
Time to fulfill our song and time to rediscover  
Those to whom we belong, and God who is our lover.

This is the time of change delivered by God's spirit,  
Moving to life and health those claiming little merit;  
Change which God's love demands to prove that faith is living,  
Change which must overflow in justice and forgiving.

Glory to God on high, to Christ and to the Spirit,  
Glory to God on earth, whose image we inherit,  
Glory to God alone, our sacrament and story,  
In whom we live and move, till lifted into glory.

**Scripture**

Luke 15: 11–24

Matt Forster

**Sermon**

Rev. Cindy Maddox

**Prayer Hymn**

*Softly and Tenderly*  
verses 1, 2, and 4

#449 (Softly and Tenderly)

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me;  
See at the portals Christ waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.  
Come home, come home,  
All who are weary, come home;  
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling—  
calling, “O sinner, come home!”

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not God’s mercies,  
mercies for you and for me?  
Come home, come home,  
All who are weary, come home;  
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling—  
calling, “O sinner, come home!”

3. O for the wonderful love Jesus promised,  
promised for you and for me;  
Though we have sinned Jesus offers us pardon,  
pardon for you and for me.  
Come home, come home,  
All who are weary, come home;  
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling—  
calling, “O sinner, come 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**

*O God, Whose Steadfast Love*  
(Prelude on 'Rhosymedre')

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1920)

O God, whose steadfast love each family has blessed,  
Who shields the infant small upon its mother's breast,  
Embrace us too, O God, our God,  
And hold us in your loving arms.

May your household of faith one family become,  
That love may be increased and none may be alone,  
That mother's love and father's care  
And children's joy we all may share.

—James Haddix

**Prayer of Thanks**

**God of grace, thank you for showing us what it is to live and give in your realm of love, to be generous even when it seems foolish, to hope amid what seems impossible, and to welcome one another home when it seems preposterous. Use these gifts for your ways of love and generosity. In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.**

**Hymn of Sending**

*O Word of God Incarnate*

#315 (Munich)

1. O Word of God incarnate,  
O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,  
O Light of clouded sky:  
We praise you for the radiance  
that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps,  
shines on from age to age.

2. O God, we hold this treasure  
from you, its source divine,  
a light that to all ages  
throughout the earth will shine;  
It is the chart and compass  
that all life's voyage through,  
'mid mists and rocks and tempest,  
still guides, O God, to you.

3. O make your church, dear Savior,  
a lamp of purest gold,  
to bear before all people  
your true light as of old!  
O teach your wandering pilgrims  
by this their path to trace,  
till, doubt and striving ended,  
they meet you face to face.

**Benediction**

**We are so glad you worshiped with us today! Join in friendship in conversation on Zoom after worship.  
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 and [YouTube](#). 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

#### Sunday, February 13

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

#### Tuesday, February 15

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

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

6:30 – 8 p.m. Northfield Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Assembly Room)

#### Wednesday, February 16

6 p.m. Trustees Meeting (Zoom)

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

7 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

#### Thursday, February 17

10 a.m. Care Team Meeting (Assembly Room)

#### Sunday, February 20

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

### **Black History Month Spotlight: The rise of a Black UCC Minister in the Backdrop of Black History**

[Andrew J. Young](#), is a well-known political figure in the United States. He was born in 1932 to a middle-class family. The Youngs lived in Louisiana, where Andrew attended segregated schools. During his childhood years, more than three million African Americans registered to join the service and the Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 3,000 missions, Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play on a major league baseball team. And Black people continued to face discrimination.

Young attended Howard University as a pre-med student but soon turned his attention to ministry and graduated from Hartford Theological Seminary in 1955 with a divinity degree. In that same year, Emmet Till

was murdered and Rosa Parks acted in opposition to bus segregation kicking off the Montgomery bus boycott. And Black people continued to face discrimination.

Young served as a pastor at several black churches in the South where he became interested in the Civil Rights Movement. He joined with the Reverend Martin Luther King in leading the South Christian Leadership Conference. During these years, King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech, a Birmingham church was bombed, the Civil Rights Act passed, Marcom X was assassinated, and King met the same fate. And Black people continued to face discrimination.

In 1972, Young was elected to represent his predominantly white, Georgia district in the United States House of Representatives. He served three terms in the House, and Shirley Chisholm ran for President of the United States. And Black people continued to face discrimination.

Andrew Young went on to serve his country as an Ambassador to the United Nations and served as Mayor of Atlanta until 1990. He established the Andrew J. Young Foundation, focused on education, economic justice, and human rights. Young wrote several books, including the spiritual memoir *A Way out of No Way* and *An Easy Burden: The Civil Rights Movement and the Transformation of America*. And Black people continue to face discrimination.

Andrew Young, ordained UCC minister for more than six decades, continues to preach and considers the work of the Foundation an extension of his ministry and of the Civil Rights movement itself.

#### **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 canceled 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](mailto:church@firstucc.org).

#### **Online Directory Access: Create an Account with Breeze**

Members, associate members, and friends of First UCC: On Friday, February 11, you should have received an email inviting you to create an account with Breeze, First UCC's giving platform and church management software. Creating an account with Breeze will allow you to view the online directory, edit select information in your profile for the church records (including uploading a photo and updating contact information), and monitor your giving to the church. You are encouraged to set up an account! If you didn't receive an invite, it's likely because we don't have an email on file with you at First UCC. Check your spam and trash folders first, and then contact the church office and we will help to make sure you have access.

\*NOTE\* If you already created an account when you set up online giving, you don't need to do anything further; simply [log in to Breeze](#) using the username and password you already created!

#### **Family Sledding, Sunday, February 20 at 2 p.m.**

Calling all ages! Join the Children's Faith Formation Team for sledding at Bell Field Hill at Carleton College, close to the corner of First and Maple, on February 20th at 2:00 p.m. Bundle up in snow gear, and bring a sled if you have one. We will meet at the hill, and spend some fun, social time together outside! Can't wait to see you there!

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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**



**Ushers:** Brad Hoff, Joan Higinbotham, Betsy Barrett, Jeffrey Latterell, Linda Larson  
**Scripture Interpretation:** Matt Forster  
**Digital Zoom Host:** Carl Henry  
**Tech Team:** Mackenzie Perkins  
**Worship Arts:** Linda Gagnon