



**First United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,  
Immigrant Welcoming Congregation  
February 20, 2022  
10:30 a.m.**

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

**Prelude**

*We Gather Together*

arr. Daniel Kallman (2020)

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Gathering Music**

*The Kingdom of God*  
Shana Hodel, piano

Austin C. Lovelace (1985)



**Call to Worship**

Rev. Sarah Are Speed

One: God's reach is endless.

**Many: God's mercy is unstoppable.**

One: God's grace is lavish.

**Many: God's love is constant.**

One: God's wisdom is vast.

**Many: God's hope is stubborn.**

One: God's presence is here—

**Many: with us, among us, moving through us.**

One: Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

**Many: We are in God's house.**

One: Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

**Opening Hymn**

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*  
verses 1, 3, and 4

#86 (Laudes Domini)

1. When morning gilds the skies,  
My heart awaking cries,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer,  
One purpose I declare:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

3. Discordant humankind,  
In this your concord find,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let all the earth around  
Ring joyous with the sound:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

4. Be this, while life is mine,  
My canticle divine,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this the eternal song,  
Through all the ages long:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

**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**

*Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord*

Felix Mendelssohn (1846)

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee. He never will suffer the righteous to fall; he is at thy right hand. Thy mercy, Lord, is great and far above the heavens. Let none be made ashamed that wait upon thee.

**Scripture**

Luke 15:11–32

Brad Hoff, Teigen Hoff, Matt Forster

**Sermon**

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

**Prayer Hymn**

*It Was God Who Ran to Greet Him*  
(see page 7)

Rae Whitney (Austin)

**The Prayers**

*We will begin in song, a minister will pray, and there will be time for silent prayer. Then we will sing again. All on Zoom are invited to share prayers 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**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

arr. David Johnson (1975)

God of grace and God of glory,  
On thy people pour thy power;  
Crown thine ancient church's story;  
Bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the facing of this hour.

Cure thy children's warring madness,  
Bend our pride to thy control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Lo, the hosts of evil 'round us  
Scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the living of these days.

Set our feet on lofty places;  
Gird our lives that they may be  
Armored with all Christ-like graces  
In the fight to set us free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
That we fail not ourselves nor thee.

## Prayer of Thanks

Adapted from Carol Penner

**Generous God, you have dealt generously with us: you have met our needs, you have heard our prayers, and your goodness is everlasting. Bless these and all of our offerings, which are given in the name of Christ, Amen.**

## Hymn of Sending

*Amazing Grace*  
(verses 1, 2, 3, 5)

#547 (New Britain)

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind but now I see.

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

5. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

## Benediction

Adapted from Rev. Sarah Are Speed

One: Blessed people of God,  
We believe in a God who waits in the driveway for us.  
We believe in a God who leaves the porch light on  
And throws a feast when we are found.  
We believe in a God who doesn't stop looking for us when we get lost.  
We believe in a God of prodigal grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.

**Many: In response, we hold tighter to each other.**

**We remember that humans are not meant to go through life alone;  
So we look for ways to welcome each other in, to live like we are family, and to lead with  
grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.  
We believe that this is our call, blessed and blessing. Let it be so. Amen.**

## Postlude

*Gigue in E Major*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

**We are so glad you worshiped with us today! Join us for friendship and conversation by staying 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](http://firstucc.org).

## **This Week at First UCC**

### Today, Sunday February 20

2 p.m. Sledding at Bell Field Hill, Carleton campus (near First and Maple)

### Tuesday, February 22

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

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

### Wednesday, February 23

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

7 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Sunday, February 27

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

## **Black History Month Spotlight: Journey of a Lifetime**

*"The thing I love about ministry is that God calls us by name (Isaiah 43:1-28). When God called me into ministry, God did not expect me to be male or to preach like a male but to speak out of the journey that I am on. From my first recitation at Macedonia or the first youth day service that they let me be the preacher, I was being prepared for my ministry. God was calling me by name and I was trying to respond with the same words that Eli- the high priest instructed Samuel to speak when he heard God speaking- 'Speak lord for thy servant heareth.'"*

Yvonne Virginia Delk, who is quoted above, was born in 1939 in Virginia, to working class parents. As a child, she was embarrassed by her modest roots. Her father worked in a shipyard during World War II and later made a living digging graves; her mother had only a sixth-grade education. Speaking about the more affluent areas of Norfolk, Delk recalled, "We were not able to come anywhere in the area without folk assuming you were a maid." Delk credits her family's sense of dignity to religion. The family attended Macedonia African Christian Church where she heard preaching centered on liberation theology. The liberating power of God was important to her in those growing up years and through high school.

After obtaining her degree from Norfolk State University, she enrolled at Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Boston and earned her master's degree in religious education, in spite of the challenge of doing so in an all-white environment. She earned her doctorate at the New York Theological Seminary and went on to direct religious education programs in Atlanta and Cincinnati. Upon her ordination in 1974, Yvonne Virginia Delk became the first black woman to be ordained in the United Church of Christ.

Reverend Dr. Delk's journey reveals an extensive list of accomplishments and experiences. Delk is teacher, educator, preacher, executive, organizer, and author. For 50 years, she has been, and still is, a champion for human and civil rights on behalf of children, people of color, and people living in poverty in the United States and around the world. She reminds us, even today, that the journey continues: "We must work toward a

vision of a new community—a multicultural, multiethnic community. We must move toward an America that we have never seen and yet must be—an economically and racially just America.”

### **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**

Last week, members and friends of First UCC should have received an email invitation to create an account with Breeze, our giving and church management software. If you didn't: check your spam or trash folder! You also may not have received an invite because you do not have an email on file with the church; contact [church@firstucc.org](mailto:church@firstucc.org) if you need further assistance. 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.

### **Faith Formation 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, TODAY, Sunday, February 20, 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!

### **Say Their Names Intervention #32, February 20 at 12:15 p.m.**

Join "Say Their Names Northfield" on Sunday, February 20, at 12:15 p.m. at Bridge Square for Say Their Names Intervention #32. The gathering will focus on the recent police shooting of Amir Locke and the history and current status of no-knock warrants in Northfield and the Twin Cities. The names of Black individuals killed at the hands of police since 2014 will be read aloud. Dress for the weather.

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Words for Worship adapted from Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.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**



**Ushers:** Anne Meyer-Ruppel, Sue Evans, Annie Kramer, Jeffrey Latterell, Mandy Everhart  
**Scripture Interpretation:** Brad Hoff, Teigen Hoff, Matt Forster  
**Guest Musician:** Shana Hodel, piano  
**Digital Zoom Host:** Gary Wagenbach  
**Tech Team:** Theo Miller and Annika Reister  
**Worship Arts:** Linda Gagnon

# It Was God Who Ran to Greet Him



It was God who ran to greet him as he stum - bled home in  
It was God who swept the kit - chen and re - trieved that pre - cious  
It was God who, as a shep - herd, left the nine - ty - nine a -  
It is God who runs to meet us, con - sci - ous of our ev - ery



shame, then em - braced him, clothed and fed him, gave him  
coin; God in wo - man called her neigh - bors, "Come, and  
sleep and then searched in cold and dark - ness till he  
need; then, as we in turn help oth - ers, God re -



back his ho - ly name.  
in my glad - ness join."  
found that miss - ing sheep.  
joic - es in each deed.