



And God said, "should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons... and also many animals?" Jonah 4:11

First United Church of Christ, Northfield

**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,
Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation**

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [Virtual Visitor Card](#).

Prelude

Reverie

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
arr. Richard Thurston (1992)

Welcome

Entering the Journey

Gathering Music

Come, Let Us Worship God
(join in as directed)

Ray Makeever (1983)

Call to Worship / Prayer of Invocation

One: Sojourning God, your Spirit exists everywhere, on every path, inviting us to move with curiosity and compassion toward each other.

Many: Decenter us even if we become uncomfortable. Show us how to be humble and willing to accept that all beings are sacred as created by you,

One: So that we will grow in peace, expand in love, and deepen in understanding.

Many: Nudge and guide us, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other

#388 (Aurelia)

V1: Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;

Teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.

Be present, God, among us,
and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted
and meant to love and live.

V2: Teach us, O God, your lessons,
As in our daily life

We struggle to be human
And search for hope and faith.

Teach us to care for people,
For all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them
Or as they may become.

V3: Let your acceptance change us,
So that we may be moved
In living situations
To do the truth in love;

To practice your acceptance,
Until we know by heart
The table for forgiveness
And laughter's healing art.

V4: God, for today's encounters
With all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance,
For righteousness and bread,

Bring us new eyes for seeing,
New hands for holding on;
Renew us with your Spirit;
God! Free us, make us one!

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

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Sue Evans

Sermon

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Reflecting on the Journey

Prayer Hymn

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

#393

V1: Blessed be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life
is like to that above.

V3: We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows a
sympathizing tear.

V2: Before our God we come
and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

V4: When we are called to part
it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

The Prayers

All joining worship online are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.

Prayer Response

One: As your spirit moved upon the waters,

All: God, let your spirit move in us.

Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with this version:

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.

Sharing Our Gifts

The hearts in the plate are for the children's offering, to raise money for the CAC Food Shelf.

Offertory

Summer Isles

Philip Sparke (1951-)

Prayer of Thanks

Holy One, you lead us to travel in your ways toward greater love. You are our constant companion, inviting us to reach out to one another. May these gifts be used for blessing others as we travel together toward the Kin-dom of Love. Amen.

Announcements

Hymn of Sending

O God in Whom All Life Begins

#401 (Noel)

V1: O God in whom all life begins,
who births the seed to fruit,
bestow your blessing on our lives;
here let your love find root.

Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts
of patience, joy and peace;
deliver us from numbing fear,
and grant our faith increase.

V2: Unite in mutual ministry
our minds and hands and hearts
that we may have the grace to seek
the power your peace imparts.

So let our varied gifts combine
to glorify your Name
that in all things by word and deed
we may your love proclaim.

V3: Through tears and laughter, grief and joy,
enlarge our trust and care;
so bind us in community
that we may risk and dare.

Be with us when we gather here
to worship, sing, and pray,
then send us forth in power and faith
to live the words we say.

Benediction

Postlude

Allegro Moderato

Alexandre Guilmant
(1837-1911)

We're so glad you worshiped here today!

Thanks to this week's leaders:

Ushers: Anne Meyer-Ruppel, Carl Henry, Mary Savina, Laura Funke, Linda Larson

Musicians: Brian Borovsky, euphonium; Shana Hodel, piano; Donna McMillan, soprano

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Reverie arr. Richard Thurston © 1992 Southern Music Company
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<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56549> [retrieved July 18, 2023].

Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.

Pastor's note on the cover art: *There are a few books of the Bible that are laid out like written forms of a graphic novel. This art is a great example by John August Swanson of how the book of Jonah is like that. The scenes are depicted to move Jonah's story along.*

This Week at First UCC

Sunday, July 23

10:30 a.m. Worship

8:15 p.m. Softball game

Thursday, July 27

7:00 p.m. NA Meeting (Big Room)

Sunday, July 30

10:30 a.m. Worship

Cards of Hope

The Card of Hope in the bulletin today urges the EPA to update a number of dated rules and regulations. The Creation Care Team asks you to fill out these cards. The Team will then send the cards onto the National UCC, which will deliver the tens of thousands of cards from all over the country to the EPA in September. If you want to receive updates and the ability to add public comments on specific changes being considered, check the "Keep Me Updated" box on the card.

Ancestors Rising

Today is the last day of Ancestors Rising, an “immersive afrofuturistic theater experience weaving together poetry, live music, and movement to tell a story of communal healing and collective liberation.” You can attend Ancestors Rising at the Southern Theater in Minneapolis today. Please purchase your tickets by going to southerntheater.org/shows/ancestors-rising-an-afrofuturistic-exploration-of-joy-and-healing/542/purchase.

Go Team Teal!

The First UCC Fighting Apostles softball team plays Northfield Canvas Church at SE 1 today, July 23 at 8:15 p.m. Come cheer on our team! Interested in playing? Contact Pastor Lauren at associateminister@firstucc.org.

A Note from ISAIAH

ISAIAH 2023 legislative wins through your and our coalition partner’s help! Badly needed \$1 Billion in funding will let the state create a new rental voucher system, a first-generation homebuyer’s assistance program, and assist in boosting workforce housing around the state. The plan also increases funding to homelessness prevention and imposes a 0.25% sales tax increase in the 7-county metro area to raise funds for affordable housing in the future. Questions about legislation or voicing your views? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

Creation Care Eco-Info:

A cup of bottled water requires 1,000-2,000 times as much energy as tap water.

- The Climate Action Handbook (Heidi Roop, 2023)

Quest Photo Album

To help honor the travelers among us, please send any travel photos of yourself or your family during your most recent expeditions (or in your favorite places)! We’ve made an online photo album that you can view at firstucc.org/newsletters/photos-media/quest-travel-portfolio/. We have so enjoyed sharing these photos with our congregation as an appreciation for how our travels have shaped and changed us.

Water from Many Places

Are you traveling this summer? Whether you are traveling to faraway lands or your family's cabin here in the Land of 10,000 Lakes, we invite you to bring back a small container of water from your trip. In the fall we will all bring the water we collected to be part of a ritual where we name the sources and bless our Water from Many Places. Then the water will be filtered and boiled to purify it, and it will be used in baptisms for years to come.

Reflecting on the Journey

Can you recall an experience that decentered you, that reminded you that not everyone lives with the same values, expectations, opportunities? How did you feel? Does the diversity of the world's people and their ways of life, and ways of spirituality, give you a grateful feeling of abundance, a fearful feeling of chaos, or something else? What happens to that when you remember the Creator who set it all in motion?

Welcome to Worship at First UCC!

We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning. Please let us know you're here by sharing your information in a welcome pad.

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Worship is also live-streamed each week on Zoom and YouTube. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we're glad to have you here!

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. You may give online by visiting firstucc.org and clicking on the "Give" button, or you may place your gift in the offering plate, 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, at firstucc.org, and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at firstucc.org.

First UCC Leadership & Staff

Ministers: All the people

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Associate Minister: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

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