



First United Church of Christ, Northfield
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Creation Justice,
Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 11, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

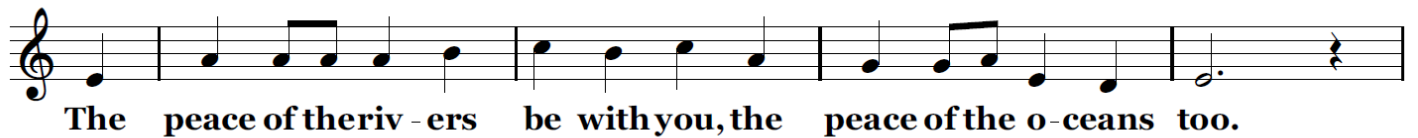
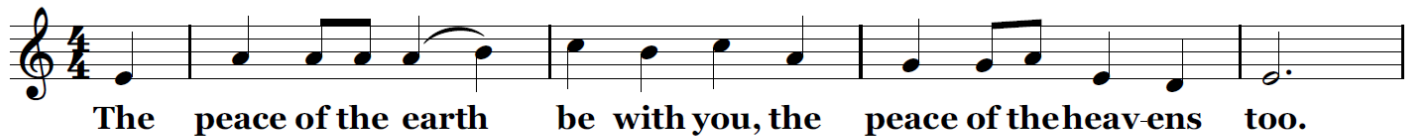
Good morning! Welcome to First United Church of Christ, Northfield. Welcome to you if you are young or old or a little bit of both. Welcome to you if you are male or female or a little bit of both or neither. Welcome to you if you are gay or straight or a little bit of both or neither. Welcome to you if you are neurodivergent or differently abled, if you have faith that can move mountains or you make mountains out of molehills! No matter who you are, who you love, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

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

Prelude *Sonata in D: Grave and Allegro* Francesco Franceschini
Ian DiMundo and Marty Hodel, trumpets (1651-1681)

Welcome

Gathering Music *The Peace of the Earth* Guatemalan, arr. John Bell



Call to Worship

One: Come, all who are seeking direction, all who long to understand God's purpose.

Many: We come, drawn by grace, called by name, changed by the mercy of Christ.

One: God calls each of us—not because we have it all together, but because God is at work in us.

Many: This is the God who transforms lives, who meets us where we are, and invites us into something greater.

One: This is the God who sees who we are and who we can become.

Many: We come to focus on the One who calls, who sends, and who equips.

Opening Hymn

Be Now My Vision

#451 (Slane)

V1. Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart –
You my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

V2. Be now my wisdom, and be my true
word;
ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
now and forever your child I will be.

V3. Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
you, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
great God, my treasure, may we never part.

V4. Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's
Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Passing of the Peace

Passing of the Peace is a chance to acknowledge each other's presence in a sacred space of community. Please rise in body or in spirit to greet those around you.

Time with Children



Anthem

King of Peace

arr. Martha Shaffer (2002)

Lord, I cannot let thee go, till a blessing thou bestow:
Do not turn away thy face, mine's an urgent pressing case.

Dost thou ask me who I am? Ah, my Lord, thou know'st my name:
Yet the question gives a plea to support my suit with thee.

Thou didst once a wretch behold, in rebellion blindly bold,
Scorn thy grace, thy power defy; that poor rebel, Lord, was I.

—Isaac Watts (1709)

Scripture

Acts 9:1-20

Julie Maxson

Sermon

Rev. Cindy Maddox

Prayer Hymn

We Limit Not the Truth of God

#316 (Old 22nd)

V1. We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,
to notions of our day and place, crude, partial and confined;
No, let a new and better hope within our hearts be stirred:
O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

V2. Who dares to bind to one's own sense the oracles of heaven,
for all the nations, tongues, and climes and all the ages given?
that universe, how much unknown! that ocean unexplored!
O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

V3. Eternal God, Incarnate Word, Spirit of flame and dove:
enlarge, expand all living souls to comprehend your love;
And help us all to seek your will with wiser powers conferred:
O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

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.

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 plates are for the Children's Offering, which supports the Community Action Center Food Shelf.

Offertory

How Lovely Are the Messengers
from the oratorio *St. Paul*

Felix Mendelssohn (1836)

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace. To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings. (Romans 10:15, 18)

Prayer of Thanks

God of vision and grace, we bring these gifts not out of obligation, but out of hope—hope for a world more just, more loving, more whole. As we offer our resources, may we also offer our hearts: to see with clarity, to give with purpose, and to live as vessels of your compassion. Be our visions as you guide us toward peace and possibility. Amen.

Announcements

Hymn of Sending

Amazing Grace

#547 (New Britain)

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a soul like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was bound but now I'm free.
2. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
3. 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

Postlude

My Spirit Be Joyful
from the Easter Cantata BWV 146

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

We're so glad you worshiped here today!

Please join us for a coffee hour in the Assembly Room after worship!

Thanks to this week's leaders:

Music: Ian DiMundo and Marty Hodel, trumpets

Ushers: Margit Johnson, Cliff Moll, Betsy Barrett, Janette Stromley, Jeffery Latterell

Cover Art: *Restored* (The Conversion of Saul) By Lisle Gwynn Garrity

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King of peace © 2002 Oxford University Press

This Week at First UCC

Sunday, May 11

9:00 a.m. Reading Aloud Book Group
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
6:00 p.m. Evening Service

Monday, May 12

3:30 p.m. Men's Group (Zoom)

Tuesday, May 13

10:00 a.m. Women's Friendship Circle
2:30 p.m. NJP Meeting

Wednesday, May 14

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 15

10:00 a.m. Care Team Meeting
7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Sunday, May 18

9:00 a.m. Reading Aloud Book Group
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:45 p.m. Congregational Meeting
6:00 p.m. Evening Service

Women's Friendship Circle

Join us on Tuesday, May 13 at 10:00 a.m. for a low-key welcoming get-together in the Parlor. There will be coffee, conversation, listening and sharing with one another.

Creation Justice Thanks You!

Thank you for your April 27th Earth Week collection funds! They are helping fund Clean River Partners' *Neustra Agua, Nuestras Vidas* program. The annual event deepens CRP's connections with the local Latina community while raising awareness about important water-related issues impacting everyone in Northfield.

Interested in a Photo Directory?

Several people have recently expressed interest in our church printing a photo directory. We can print our own directory rather than going through an outside company, but we need two

things to make this happen: 1) Someone to coordinate our efforts, and 2) Everyone to upload their photo into Breeze, our church management software. If organizing our members and friends to participate in a photo directory sounds like something you're willing to tackle, let Kate in the church office know! Church@firstucc.org.

Call to Congregational Meeting

On March 18 after worship we will hold a congregational meeting to consider whether we should join with 500+ other organizations in signing the Apartheid Free Pledge. The Peace & Justice in Palestine & Israel team would like to hear from you about what has been helpful in your decision-making process and what you might still need to know. You can help us by **completing a survey** which you can access by scanning this QR code. And plan now to join us on May 18.



Senior High Recognition

Families with high school seniors, we would like to recognize your student in worship at 10:30 a.m. May 25th! Please email Pastor Lauren to RSVP for worship that day, so we can plan on celebrating your student!

Support New CAC Initiative: Go with the Flow. Period.

Period poverty is real, and the Community Action Center (CAC) is stepping up with a bold new initiative to tackle it head-on. CAC is launching Go with the Flow. Period., a dynamic menstrual equity initiative aimed at ensuring everyone in our community has access to period products - no shame, no stigma, just support. For more information on the initiative or to donate directly, visit communityactioncenter.org/go-with-the-flow.

A Note from ISAIAH

ISAIAH is organizing effective local and state responses to national policies in concert with other organizations. ISAIAH Northfield is starting a county-wide series of house parties for this. We need people who are willing to host house parties. To be part of this effort or if you have questions, connect with Leota Goodney (leotagoodney@hotmail.com) or register at the QR code for training on May 17 from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. Questions about legislation or voicing your views? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.



Volunteer for Coffee Hour

The team needs you! Consider volunteering for Coffee Hour after worship on Sundays from 11:30-12:30. If you are interested in and available to help, please go to firstucc.org/members-friends/ or scan the QR code to sign up.



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 you're 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, placing your gift in the offering plate, sending in your gifts via mail, or scanning the QR code!



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

Moderator: Marty Hodel

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Associate Minister: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Organist: Catherine Rodland

Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Office Manager & Director of Communications: Kate Kvasnak

Finance Manager: Derek Melby

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Audio Visual Technician: Brynn Artley