

United Church of Christ, First Congregational, Norwich, New York
May 24, 2020

A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE *The Good Shepherd*
Bob Oehme, organ

by Dale Wood

WELCOME (Pastor John)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Linda Oehme)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Gwendolyn Breese)

Redeeming God, you call us to be one with you, as you are one with Christ. As his perfect love casts out our fear, and changes it to love, unite us by your Spirit of peace, that we may be one with you, as you are one with Christ. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Gwendolyn Breese)

ONE: Let the righteous be joyful!

Let them rejoice before God.

ALL: Let us all be jubilant with joy!

ONE: Sing to God, all peoples of the world.

Sing praises to God most high.

**ALL: From the sanctuary of heaven,
God gives life and renews the face of the earth.**

ONE: Let the righteous be joyful!

Let them rejoice before God.

ALL: Let us all be jubilant with joy!

HYMN *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant*
Mary Williams, Meena Conant, Jason Handy, voice
Bob Oehme, organ

(Tune: SERVANT SONG)

CHILDREN'S TIME (Linda Oehme)
The Lord's Prayer

MISSION MOMENT – Strengthen the Church

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE **John 17:1-11** (Brad Morrison)

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

ANTHEM *Speak, O Lord*
UCC Choir, Recorded 9/16/18

words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
choral setting by Lloyd Larson

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to receive the food of your Holy Word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all your purposes for your glory.

O teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of your plans for us:
truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises; and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built, and the earth is filled with your glory.
Amen, amen, amen.

SCRIPTURE Acts 10:34-48 (Brad Morrison)

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

SERMON

ORGAN INTERLUDE

"Ach Gott, von Himmel sieh darein" (Ah God, Look down from Heaven)
Bob Oehme, organ

by J. Pachelbel

PASTORAL PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love* (Tune: CHEREPONI)
Mary Williams, voice
Bob Oehme, organ

BLESSING (Pastor John)

May the abundance of God bless you,
the strength of Christ keep you,
and the Spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God,
shine upon you forever.

POSTLUDE *Praise My Soul*
Bob Oehme, organ

By L. Wood