

**United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, New York
June 28, 2020**

A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE *Jesus Christ Be Present Now*
Bob Oehme, organ

Georg Bohm

WELCOME (Pastor John)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Lilit Danielyan and John Kolb)

God of wonder,
you appeared to Abraham as three persons;
you reveal your fullness in your Son Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit fills your people with hope through the peacemaking cross of Jesus.
Gather us as Christ's faithful disciples and empower us with his good news,
in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Linda Oehme)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Lilit Danielyan and John Kolb)

ONE: Jesus Christ summons us to answer God's call of mercy.

ALL: Christ gathers us and gives us power to be healed and to heal,

ONE: to be forgiven and to forgive,

ALL: to be freed from sin and to set others free,

ONE: to tell one another and the world:

ALL: God's presence is at hand. Let us worship God.

HYMN *Dear God Embracing Humankind* Tune: REST
UCC Choir and Friends
Bob Oehme, organ

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

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING OF PEACE

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE - Acts 16:14-15 (Melodie Posner)

¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

ANTHEM *Guide My Feet*
Mary Williams, voice

African-American traditional
Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

Guide my feet while I run this race, (Yes, my God.) (repeat 2x)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Hold my hand while I run this race, (Yes, my God.) (repeat 2x)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

I'm your child while I run this race, (Yes, my God.) (repeat 2x)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Stand by me while I run this race, (Yes, my God.) (repeat 2x)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

SCRIPTURE - Matthew 9:35-10:8 (Jessica Posner)

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

10 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

SERMON (Pastor John)

INTERLUDE *Sweet Hour of Prayer* (Tune: SWEET HOUR)
Bob Oehme, organ

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS IN LONG-STANDING (Mary Williams, Chair, Board of Deacons)

Edwin Tucker 69 years
David Hall 68 years
Patricia Whitmore 64 years
Jane Prime 60 years
Allan Sawyer 54 years
Gary Gray 50 years
Victoria Gray 50 years
John Brereton 40 years

PASTORAL PRAYER (Pastor John)

CLOSING HYMN *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* Tune: BEECHER
UCC Choir & Friends
Bob Oehme, organ

BLESSING (Pastor John)

The three persons of the Trinity surround you.
The hand of God keep you from all harm;
the Spirit of God guide you in all joy;
the Son of God deliver you to eternal life.

POSTLUDE

Fantasia on Duke Street David Payton
Bob Oehme, organ