

United Church of Christ, First Congregational  
Norwich, New York 13815  
July 5, 2020  
Children's Sunday

A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

**PRELUDE** *Simple Gifts* by James C. Kasen  
Bob Oehme, organ

**WELCOME** (Pastor John)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Linda Oehme)

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (Flora Breese)

Holy One, this day is made bright with your LIGHT and your love.

May we recognize your presence, hear your voice, and walk in your ways this day and always. Amen!

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Jay, Neil and Kyle Conant)

Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? **NO!**

Can trouble? **NO!**

Can suffering? **NO!**

What about hard times? **NO!**

How about hunger? **NO!**

What if we don't have the right clothes to wear? **NO!**

Danger? **NO!**

How about what happened yesterday? **NO!**

How about things that could happen tomorrow? **NO!**

NOTHING? **NO!**

**Thanks be to God!!!**

**OPENING HYMN** *Be Still And Know*  
Mary Williams, voice

Psalm 46:10  
Music: Anonymous

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON** (Mya and Luci Yantz)  
(This prayer uses Psalm 23 from the Contemporary English Bible)

You, Lord, are my shepherd. I will never be in need.

Yet it is hard for us to trust you.

Forgive us, God, and help us trust you.

You let me rest in fields of green grass.

You lead me to streams of peaceful water, and you refresh my life.

Yet we are so busy: we never seem to have time to stop and catch our breath,  
we don't have time to pray,

we don't have time for others.

Forgive us, God, help us to relax.

You are true to your name, and you lead me along the right paths.

But sometimes we want to go our own way;

We don't want to do what we know we should.

Forgive us, God, and help us to walk in your way.

I may walk through valleys as dark as death,

But I won't be afraid. You are with me, and your shepherd's rod makes me feel safe.

We get scared--terrified--by so many things in life.

Forgive us, God, and help us to remember you are always with us.

You treat me to a feast, while my enemies watch.

You honor me as your guest, and you fill my cup until it overflows.

God loves us and cares for us, no matter what.

Thanks, God, for always being there.

Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life,  
and I will live forever in your house. Amen!

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Psalm 23 (ILV) - (Gwendolyn Breese)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.  
He leads me in the right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
Your Rod and your staff--they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

**HYMN** *This Little Light of Mine*

(Tune: THIS JOY)

Linda Oehme, Jen Mallozzi, Ericka and Leona Tyler, Meena Conant, Mary Williams, Elspeth Hunter

- 1 - This little light of mine... I'm gonna let it shine
- 2- Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
- 3 - Hide it under a bushel...NO! I'm gonna let it shine
- 4 – Won't let anyone blow it out! I'm gonna let it shine
- 5 - Shine on you and me. I'm gonna let it shine

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** John 12:35 – 36 - (Melodie Posner)

Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of the light."

**PRESENTATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL STOLES**

**6<sup>th</sup> Year Stole (8 year recognition)**

*(Candle--The Light is always with us)*

Fiora Breese

Gwendolyn Breese

Melodie Posner

**4<sup>th</sup> Year Stole**

*(Dove--The Spirit of Peace)*

Luci Yantz

Mya Yantz

**3<sup>rd</sup> Year Stole**

*(Fish-Fisher of People)*

Leona Tyler

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year Stole**

*(Crosses-Jesus is always with us)*

Jay Conant

Kyle Conant

Neil Conant

**ANTHEM** *Hear Us As We Pray*  
Leona and Ericka Tyler

Words and music by Matt Huesmann

Lord, we call to you right now.  
Hear us as we pray.  
Folded hands and quiet hearts.  
Hear us as we pray.

Give us heroes' hearts.  
Reveal your truth today.  
Give us strength to do what's good.  
Hear us as we pray. Hear us as we pray.

Lord, we ask this in your name.  
Hear us as we pray.  
Boldly share, your truth proclaim.  
Hear us as we pray.

Give us heroes' hearts  
to live your truth each day.  
Give us courage in our faith.  
Hear us as we pray. Hear us as we pray.

Lord, we call to you right now.  
Hear us as we pray.  
Guide our feet and light our way.  
Hear us as we pray.

Give us heroes' hearts in all we do and say.  
Give us hope as we seek peace.  
Hear us as we pray. Hear us as we pray.  
Hear us as we pray.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (Sunday School Children)

**Leona:** Pray with Us.

Holy One, you call us to trust in you.

With that trust, we offer our prayers to you.

We pray for our community: build us up to be able to withstand  
the storms that may come. We pray for clarity in times of confusion.

**Melodie:** We pray for those who are called to serve the community--

Health care workers, first responders, government officials, teachers, sanitation workers, city workers, farmers, grocery workers, hairdressers and all essential workers. May they be strengthened in their service by showing strength and courage to act with kindness and compassion,

**Gwen:** We pray for those who live on the margins of society—

the homeless, those with addictions, those with mental health struggles. May we be moved to reach out to them, that they might know your love. We pray for healing of the body, mind and spirit for all who suffer.

**Luci:** We pray for the earth, for the flowers, the trees and everything that is green. May we be responsible stewards of this remarkable gift that you have created. We pray for the healing of our earth.

**Mya:** We pray for the leaders of the nations, that they may turn from destructive ways of governing to help build a world where all are respected and all have enough. We pray for understanding and peace among ALL peoples.

**Jay:** We thank you, mighty God. for the gentle way in which you nourish and care for all your people.

**Neil:** We thank you for never giving up on us, and for loving us always.

**Kyle:** Amen!

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Fiora:** And now let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray.

Our Father which 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 and ever. Amen!

## **PRAYER INTERLUDE**

*Adagio* from Piano Concerto in A Major K. 488

Jason Handy, piano

by W.A. Mozart

arr by Lani Smith

## **RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES**

Morgan Burdick

Aria Macholchic

Aidan Sullivan

**CLOSING HYMN** *Go Now In Peace* by Natalie Sleeth

Linda Oehme, Jen Mallozzi, Ericka and Leona Tyler, Meena Conant, Mary Williams, Elspeth Hunter

Go now in Peace; Go now in Peace

May the love of God surround you everywhere you may go.

**BLESSING** (Jen Mallozzi)

May the peace of God rest upon our busy lives so that we may be quieted into prayer.

May Christ's presence and example give us courage to step out of our fears or complacency.

And may the wind of the Spirit awaken us to new possibilities for our lives. Amen!!!

**BENEDICTION** (Linda Oehme)

May the amazing grace of our teacher, Jesus Christ,

the extravagant love of God,

the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.

Go in Peace and let the Light shine through each of you!!

**POSTLUDE:** *Trust and Obey*

Bob Oehme, organ

by Timothy Nelson