

**United Church of Christ, First Congregational  
Norwich, New York  
August 16, 2020**

**A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD**

**PRELUDE** *God is our Refuge and Strength*  
Bob Oehme, organ

by Paul Davis

**WELCOME** (Pastor John)

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**<sup>1</sup> (Chad Conant)

Almighty God, whose compassion embraces everyone,  
gather the outcast and the lost, heal the wounds of fear and distrust,  
and make us a community of reconciliation that we may embody your merciful love and rejoice  
in your astounding grace in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Linda Oehme)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**<sup>1</sup> (Jay and Neil Conant)

ONE: My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples, says the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN** *The Church of Christ In Every Age* (#306 )  
Mary Williams, Meena Conant, Miranda Hunter,  
Elsbeth Hunter, Jason Handy, Brad Morrison,  
Pete Williams, Bob Oehme

Words Fred Pratt Green, 1969  
© 1971 by Hope Publishing Company  
Tune: WAREHAM by William Knapp, 1738

**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** Psalm 67 (Ericka Tyler)

To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.

<sup>1</sup> May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us, *Selah*

<sup>2</sup> that your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.

<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth. *Selah*

<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup> The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, has blessed us.

<sup>7</sup> May God continue to bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

## ANTHEM

*O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come*

Fred Pratt Green, 1967; Words © 1969 by Hope Publishing Company

Verse 5 Carl P. Daw, Jr, 1992 © 1995 by Hope Publishing Company

TUNE: KENTRIDGE by Richard Gieseke, 1988 © 1988 by Concordia Publishing House

Voices: Meena Conant, Jason Handy, Pete Williams, Mary Williams  
Bob Oehme, organ

O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.  
How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures our bodies clamor to be freed.  
Yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.

In conflicts that destroy our health we recognize the world's disease;  
Our common life declares our ills, Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find  
The wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach and prosper humankind.

Praise God who gives all blessings birth; praise God all creatures on the earth;  
Praise God, who makes, sustains, sets free: one Holy God in persons three.

## SCRIPTURE Matthew 15:21-28 (Ericka Tyler)

<sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." <sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup> He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup> She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

## SERMON (Pastor John)

**INTERLUDE** *Adagio* from *Oboe Concerto in D Minor* (Excerpt)  
Jason Handy, piano

by Alessandro Marcello  
Arranged for piano by J.S. Bach

## PASTORAL PRAYER (Pastor John)

## CLOSING HYMN

*God Be With You*

Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU by William G. Tomer, 1880,  
Words by Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880

Bonnie Connolly, Elspeth Hunter, Meena Conant, John Kolb, Kacie Turnbull, Ericka Tyler, Pat Burke, Destinie Smith, Miranda Hunter, Leona Tyler, Jason Handy, Aidan Sullivan, Mary Williams, Jennifer Mallozzi, Linda Oehme, Pete Williams, Bob Oehme, Brad Morrison

## BLESSING<sup>1</sup>

The God who forgives, reconciles, heals, and blesses is with you today and forevermore.

## POSTLUDE

*Postlude*

Bob Oehme, organ

by Flor Peeters  
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