

**United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, New York
August 30, 2020**

A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE *My Jesus I Love Thee*
Bob Oehme, organ

R. J. Powell
Tune: GORDON by Adoniram J Gordan 1876

WELCOME (Pastor John)

PRAYER OF THE DAY¹ (Bob Oehme)

Almighty God, in the self-giving love of Christ you have revealed the path of salvation; give us courage to deny our selfish desire and bear the cross of discipleship, that we may live as those who have no fear of death and receive the joy of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Linda Oehme, Beth Garry, Mary Williams)

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ (Bob Oehme)

ONE: Sing a song of thanksgiving.

ALL: Declare God's wondrous deeds.

ONE: For the Lord dwells among the people;

ALL: the glory of God abides with us.

HYMN *Nearer My God To You*

Words by Sarah Flower Adams, 1841,
Adapted by Thomas H. Troeger
Tune: BETHANY by Lowell Mason, 1856

Brad Morrison, Pete Williams, Jason Handy,
Mary Williams, Kacie Turnbull, Leona Tyler
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 Matthew 16:21-28 (Bob Oehme)

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

SCRIPTURE – Romans 12:9-21 (Bob Oehme)

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary:
"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."
²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

ANTHEM *Safe Inside Your Love*
Meena Conant, Ericka Tyler, Mary Williams
Bob Oehme, accompanist

Andrew Wilson

If I fly on the wings of eagles far beyond the stars,
If I sink to the depths of oceans, even there, there you are!

Chorus
Before me. Behind me.
Above me. Below me.
You surround me, you sustain me,
promise that you'll always keep me!

Before me. Behind me.
Above me. Below me.
You surround me, you sustain me,
promise that you'll always keep me
Safe inside your love! Safe inside your love!
Safe inside your love! Safe inside your love!

Every time I feel discouraged, stumbling through the dark.
I will fear, I will fear no evil, even there, there you are!

Chorus
Before me. Behind me.
Above me. Below me.
You surround me, you sustain me,
promise that you'll always keep me!

Wherever you send me is where I will go.
I'm safe in your arms, I'm safe in your arms!
I'll hold nothing back, I surrender control.
I'm safe in your arms!, I'm safe in your arms! (Repeat)

Safe inside your love! Safe inside your love!
Safe inside your love! Safe inside your love!

SCRIPTURE - Exodus 3:1-15 (Judy Smith)

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' ⁵ Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' ⁶ He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' ¹¹ But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' ¹² He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

¹³ But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' ¹⁴ God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I AM has sent me to you."' ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you":

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

SERMON (Pastor John)

INTERLUDE The Church in the Wildwood (Excerpt)
Jason Handy, piano

by Tom Birchwood

PASTORAL PRAYER (Pastor John)

CLOSING HYMN *My Faith It is an Oaken Staff* (418)

Thomas T. Lynch, 1855

Tune: THE STAFF OF FAITH, Swiss folk melody

Meena Conant, Pete Williams, Ericka Tyler, Leona Tyler, Mary Williams, Jason Handy
Bob Oehme, organ

BLESSING¹

The blessing of God be with you,
the love of Jesus fill you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you,
now and forevermore.

POSTLUDE *To God be the Glory*
Bob Oehme, organ

Edward Broughton

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