

United Church of Christ, First Congregational  
Norwich, New York  
October 18, 2020

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

**PRELUDE** *Slane*

Traditional Irish Melody  
Arranged by John Purifoy

Cheri Oakley, flute, Bob Oehme, piano  
(Recorded 10/28/18 at UCC Norwich)

**WELCOME** (Pastor John)

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (Ericka Tyler)

Holy God,  
you have made us in your image,  
and we belong to you alone.  
Therefore we offer ourselves to you,  
in service, love, and praise.  
Use us for the glory of your realm  
and the good of your people;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Linda Oehme)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Judy Smith)

ONE: Sing to the Lord and bless God's name.

**ALL: Tell of God's saving power from day to day.**

ONE: Worship the Lord in holy splendor.

**ALL: Tremble before God, all the earth.**

**HYMN** *God Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

Megan Carpenter, Ericka Tyler, Mikaela Brown  
Deanna Perkosky, Mike Moren, Meena Conant, Mary Williams

Robert L. Edwards, 1961  
Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN,  
Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

**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- Exodus 33:12-23** (Ericka Tyler)

<sup>12</sup> Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' <sup>13</sup> Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." <sup>14</sup> He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." <sup>15</sup> And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. <sup>16</sup> For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

<sup>17</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." <sup>18</sup> Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." <sup>19</sup> And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD';<sup>[a]</sup> and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. <sup>20</sup> But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." <sup>21</sup> And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; <sup>22</sup> and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; <sup>23</sup> then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

**ANTHEM** *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

George Croly, 1854  
Tune: MORECAMBE  
Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,  
and make me love you as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,  
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,  
No angel visitant, no opening skies;  
but take the dimness of my soul away.

Have you not bid us love you every way?  
All, all your own: soul, heart, and strength and mind;  
I see your cross—there teach my heart to stay:  
O let me seek you, and O let me find.

Teach me to feel that you are always nigh;  
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;  
teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love you as your angels love,  
one holy passion filling all my frame;  
The baptism of the heaven-descended dove,  
my heart an altar, your love the flame.

**SCRIPTURE - Matthew 22:15-22** (Judy Smith)

<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. <sup>16</sup> So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup> Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" <sup>18</sup> But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup> Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" <sup>21</sup> They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup> When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

**SERMON** (Pastor John)

**INTERLUDE** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*  
Jason Handy

Tune: ST. ANNE  
by William Croft, 1708

**PASTORAL PRAYER** (Pastor John)

**CLOSING HYMN** *Take My Life, God, Let It Be*  
Megan Carpenter, Ericka Tyler, Mikaela Brown  
Deanna Perkosky, Mike Moren, Meena Conant, Mary Williams  
Pete Williams, Bob Oehme, organ

Frances R. Havergal, 1874  
Tune: VIENNA, Justin H. Knecht, 1797

**BLESSING** (Pastor John)

May God tuck us securely  
into the cleft of the rock of our salvation, Jesus Christ.  
May we sense the inexpressible awe of God's glory passing over us.  
And may we rest in the peace that passes all understanding,  
now and forevermore.

**POSTLUDE** *Toccata in d minor*  
Bob Oehme, organ  
(recorded 6/2/19 at UCC Norwich)

J.S. Bach