

**United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, New York
October 25, 2020**

A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue in G minor*
Bob Oehme, organ

J. S. Bach

WELCOME (Pastor John)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Jay and Neil Conant)

ONE: God of creation, you have made us to be nourished in your care,

ALL: and you test us so that we will turn again and again toward your gifts.

ONE Show us how to love our neighbors and ourselves,

ALL: and teach us to delight in your law

ONE: so that we will know the way of gratitude and thanksgiving.

ALL: In the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Linda Oehme)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Fiora Breese)

Jesus said:

You shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart,

and with all your soul,

and with all your mind,

and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two commandments hang

all of the law and the prophets.

HYMN *Called As Partners in Christ's Service*

Jane Parker Humber, 1981

Meena Conant, Bonnie Connolly

Tune: Beecher by John Zundel, 1855

Linda Oehme, Miranda Hunter, Elspeth Hunter

Leona Tyler, Mary Williams, Destinie Smith, Ericka Tyler, Pete Williams

John Kolb, Aidan Sullivan, Jason Handy, 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 Deuteronomy 34:1-12 (Meena Conant)

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴The LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” ⁵Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD’s command. ⁶He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. ⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. ¹¹He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹²and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

ANTHEM *We Are Called*

Words and music by David Haas
Arranged by Mark Hayes

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly,
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
so hatred and violence will be no more.

We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will, God will reign,
and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers
united in love.

We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.
We'll walk humbly with God.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 22:34-46 (Fiora Breese)

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² “What do you think of the Messiah?^[a] Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit^[b] calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ ‘The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet”?”

⁴⁵ If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

SERMON (Pastor John)

INTERLUDE “Ach Gott, von Himmel sieh darein”
(Ah God, Look down from Heaven)
Bob Oehme, organ

by J. Pachelbel

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

May the Lord bless you
and lay loving hands upon you,
that you may be strengthened
to continue to walk in the faith
that others have passed on to you,
to move ahead into the promised land.

POSTLUDE *O Worship the King*
Bob Oehme, organ

Tune: LYONS by J. Michael Haydn
arranged by Lani Smith

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