

United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, New York
November 8, 2020

A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE *Mein Leben ist ein Pilgrimstand*
Bob Oehme, organ

By H. Walcha

WELCOME (Pastor John)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Ed Tucker)
Eternal God,
you are our hope and our salvation,
for in Jesus Christ you have conquered death.
Baptized in him, we are raised to new life.
Increase in us our faith
and keep us watchful,
that we may welcome Christ with joy
when he comes to set the whole world free. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Linda Oehme)

MISSION MOMENT
Stewardship (Chris Mallozzi)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Miranda Hunter)
People of God, listen:
the Lord has done marvelous things.
Teach your children all that God has done
so that they may live in hope
and die in peace.

HYMN *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Cecil F. Alexander, 1848
Tune: ROYAL OAK, adapted Martin Shaw 1915

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 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (Miranda Hunter)

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

ANTHEM *Faithfulness*

Words by Thomas O. Chisholm
Music by Joel Raney

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee,
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou has been thou forever will be.

Summer and winter and spring time and
harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature, in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy had hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:1-13 (Ed Tucker)

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.-
² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴ but the
wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at
midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those bridesmaids got up
and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the
wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for
yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the
wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹² But
he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

SERMON (Pastor John)

INTERLUDE *Praise the Source of Faith and Learning*
Bob Oehme, organ

Tune: PROCESSION
William Albright, 1992

PASTORAL PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN *Lead Us From Death to Life* (581)

Refrain, Satish Kumar, Stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1985
Tune: WORLD PEACE PRAYER, Marty Haugen, 1985

BLESSING

May the grace of Christ surround you,
the love of God uphold you,
and the Holy Spirit spark you
with unquenchable fire
as you wait and work for the kingdom to come.

POSTLUDE

Festive Celebration on Arlington
Bob Oehme, organ

Gilbert M. Martin
based on the tune by Thomas A. Arne