

United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, New York
November 22, 2020

A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE *Pastorale*
Bob Oehme, organ

Flor Peeters

WELCOME (Pastor John)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Linda Oehme)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Ericka Tyler)

God of majesty, you love us with an everlasting love
and show us the way to justice and peace.

In Jesus Christ you have reconciled the whole world to you
and claimed us as your own, that we may live as his body on earth and,
with all the saints, enter into your glory on the last day. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Bob Oehme)

The Lord God is our shepherd.

**We are the people of God's pasture,
the sheep of God's hand.**

God will seek the lost, feed the hungry,
and strengthen the weak.

But the proud and power-hungry will be fed with justice.

HYMN *Jesus Shall Reign*

Isaac Watts, 1719
Tune: DUKE STREET
Attributed to John Hatton, c. 1793

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 (Ericka Tyler)

Ephesians 1:15-25

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Psalm 100

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

² Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

³ Know that the LORD is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

ANTHEM *We Gather Together*
Bell Choir

Netherlands Folk Hymn
Arranged by Barbara Baltzer Kinyon

SCRIPTURE (Bob Oehme)

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

SERMON (Pastor John)

INTERLUDE *For the Beauty of the Earth As With Gladness Men of Old*
Jason Handy, organ

Conrad Kocher
Arranged by David S. York

PASTORAL PRAYER (Pastor John)

CLOSING HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God*

Martin Rinkart, 1647
Translation by Catherine Winkworth, 1858
Tune: NUN DANKET, Johann Cruger, 1647
Harmonization by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

BLESSING (Pastor John)

May the grace of Christ surround you,
the love of God astound you,
and the Holy Spirit keep you,
this day and forevermore.

POSTLUDE *God of Grace and God of Glory*
Jason Handy, organ

John Hughes
Arranged by David S. York

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