

United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, New York
November 24, 2020

A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE *Berceuse*
Bob Oehme, organ

Louis Vierne

WELCOME (Pastor John)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Linda Oehme)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Melodie Posner)
The present form of this world is passing away.
Therefore, help us to keep our focus on you, Lord,
for true power and steadfast love belong to you. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Jason Handy)
From God comes my salvation.
For God alone my soul waits in silence.
God alone is my rock and my salvation.
God is my fortress; I shall never be shaken.

HYMN *Dear God, Embracing Humankind*

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872
Tune: REST by Frederick C. Maker, 1887

CHILDREN'S TIME (Linda Oehme, Jen Mallozzi)
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 (Melodie Posner)
Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³ So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.
¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

ANTHEM *All is Well*

Words and Music by Wayne Kirkpatrick
and Michael W. Smith
Arranged by Lloyd Larson

All is well, all is well.
Angels and men rejoice!
For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light.
Sing al-le, sing alleluia!

All is well, all is well.
Let there be peace on earth.
Sing for Christ is come, go and tell that he is in the manger.
Sing al-le, sing alleluia!

All is well, all is well.
Lift up your voice and sing and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior.

Sing alleluia! All is well!

Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior
Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia!
All is well, all is well.

SCRIPTURE (Jason Handy)

Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

SERMON (Pastor John)

INTERLUDE

Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts
Bob Oehme, organ

Tune: PENTECOST, William Boyd, 1864

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Pastor John)

God of new visions,
we pray for people highly placed in power,
that they may focus their eyes on you.

And we pray for the lowly victims of power,
that they may also focus their eyes on you.

We pray for those who bless with their lips
but curse with their mouths,
including ourselves.

We pray for those who are ill
and those facing the end of life.
Give them the gift of prayer,
that they may pour out their hearts to you.

We pray for the church and its leaders,
that we may hear and respond to your call
to be fishers of people.

Rock of our salvation,
through Christ and your Holy Spirit
bring us into the new world that you are shaping
even as this world is passing away. **Amen.**

BLESSING (Pastor John)

May the God of second chances
renew your sense of call
and inspire you to go out and share
the good news of forgiveness and hope!

POSTLUDE *Honor and Majesty*
Bob Oehme, organ

Edward Brought