

United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, New York
January 17, 2021

A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE Songs of Hope.
Bob Oehme, organ

Lani Smith

WELCOME (Pastor John)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Linda Oehme)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Ed Tucker)

You invite us, O God, to live in your ways,
and you give us to each other to know and to love
as we journey in this life.
Show us your will for all creation.
Help us to listen to your urgings with prayerful hearts
so that we may honor what you have made,
in the name of the holy Trinity, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Bob Oehme)

The one who calls you together this day
yearns for each of you and for all people to hear
and be blessed.

Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.

Blessed is the One who comes bringing
trustworthy words for the healing of the world.

Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.

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 (Bob Oehme)

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³ the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵ and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶ The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

SPECIAL MUSIC *Here I am Lord*

Words and music by Dan Schutte (1981)
adapted by Carlton R. Young, 1988
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I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom Shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

SCRIPTURE (Ed Tucker)

John 1:43-51

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

SERMON (Pastor John)

INTERLUDE *God of Change and Glory*
Bob Oehme, organ

Tune: KATHERINE
Al Carmines, 1973

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Pastor John)

God, in the beginning you created
the heavens and the earth.
Preserve and sustain your creation, we pray.

We pray for the poor and the outcasts,
for you are their God.
Deliver them when they are in trouble.
Strengthen those who work for the poor,
and those who care for the sick and infirm.
Sustain those who suffer and heal all their infirmities.

We pray for political and religious leaders
when they utter empty words
while their hearts gather mischief.
Lord, bring them back to integrity
and into your presence.

We grow weary under the burden

of the sins of the world.
Have mercy on us.

Now in the name of your son, Jesus Christ,
in whom your word is always yes,
and under the seal of the Holy Spirit,
we praise your name and say:
Amen to the glory of God!

BLESSING

The peace of Christ, crucified and risen for all,
go with you this day and always.

POSTLUDE *Trio on "Trust and Obey"*
Bob Oehme, organ

Timothy Nelson

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