

**United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, New York
May 16, 2021**

PRELUDE *Sun of My Soul*
Bob Oehme, organ

James Southbridge
Tune: HURSLEY

WELCOME (Pastor John)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Judy Smith)

Holy One,
open us to the possibility that we are being chosen
to be new disciples with new ministries
in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Linda Oehme, Jamie Maholchic)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Elizabeth Barber Breeze)

Happy are those who do not ridicule and scoff
but who delight in God's teachings
and meditate on them day and night.
They are like trees planted by streams of water.
They yield fruit in due season,
and their leaves do not wither.

HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (#43)

Words by Charles Wesley, 1747
Tune: Beecher, John Zundel, 1855

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 (Elizabeth Barber Breeze)

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶ "Friends the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us— one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." ²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

ANTHEM *O Master Let Me Walk With Thee*
Hand Bells

Arranged by Barbara B. Kinyon

SCRIPTURE (Judy Smith)

John 17:6-19

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

SERMON (Pastor John)

(You can find more information on the Circles of Trust mentioned by Pastor John in his sermon here: www.couragerenewal.org)

INTERLUDE *Interlude on “Oakley”*
Bob Oehme, organ

Tune by W. H. Oakley
Arranged by R. Oehme

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Pastor John)

Let us pray for the world
and ask that we may be given the grace
to be faithful disciples of Jesus.

May we be like trees planted by streams of water.

Holy God, this world is peopled by
those who delight in your teachings
and those who scoff at your ways.
Guide us to meditate on you day and night,
that we may be an influence for good in the world.

May we be like trees planted by streams of water.

We pray for the people and the leaders of the world
in all our diversity.

Sanctify them in your truth,
that there may be peace and harmony on earth.

May we be like trees planted by streams of water.

We pray for those who are sick or suffering,
that they may know your protection and care
through our faithful service.

May we be like trees planted by streams of water.

We pray for your church,
that by the marriage of your grace and our faith
we may serve you and our neighbors.

May we be like trees planted by streams of water.

We pray for Earth itself, your marvelous creation.
Inspire and help us to be the good stewards
that you ask us to be, now and for the future.

May we be like trees planted by streams of water.

Make holy all for which we pray—
the poor, the infirm, the church, the world—
for holiness and wholeness come from you.
Receive these prayers both spoken and unspoken,
for we are yours. **Amen.**

BLESSING (Pastor John)

Jesus Christ has already given us
into the arms of a loving God.
Therefore go in the Spirit of peace.

POSTLUDE *Fanfare and March*
Bob Oehme, organ

Henry Purcell
Arranged by George Blake

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