

United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, New York
June 13, 2021 – Intergenerational Service

PRELUDE *Just as I Am*

by William Bradbury

Leona Tyler* and Jason Handy, pianists
(* recipient of UCC Music Lesson Scholarships)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Linda Oehme)

WELCOME (Linda Oehme)

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Luci and Mya Yantz)

Come let us gather and give thanks
for long bright days and the spouting of seeds.
Come let us gather and listen
to the beloved stories of Jesus.
Come let us gather and sing joyously
as an expression of God's Spirit within us.
Come let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER (Leona Tyler)

O God, as we gather this morning,
fill us with wonder
and openness to surprises,
around us and within us.
Help us to see how the smallest actions of love can transform our world and our lives.
Nudge us and nurture us that we might grow
into the people you intend us to be. AMEN!!!

HYMN *This is a Day of New Beginnings* (#417)

Brian Wren, 1978
Tune: BEGINNINGS by Carlton R. Young, 1987

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
Can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do
This is a day of new beginnings- our God is making all things new.

A TIME OF SHARING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Kyle, Jay, Neil Conant)

Let us Pray.

Healing and merciful God, hear us as we confess what we have done and how we have hurt others.
When we use our hands to strike out, to tear up, and to destroy,
Forgive us!
Teach us to use our hands in friendship and care.

When we use our eyes to look away from our fear and the fear of others, or when we look upon others with hatred,
Forgive us!
Teach us to use our eyes in friendship and care.

When we fail to use our mouths to ask boldly for your help, or to speak on behalf of others,

Forgive us!

Teach us to use our mouths in friendship and care.

When we use our ears to listen only to those who are close to us, who say things we want to hear,

Forgive us!

Teach us to use our ears in friendship and care.

When we close our hearts to you, O God,

Forgive us!

Teach us to open our hearts, and to serve others in friendship and care.

Amen!!!

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Jen Mallozzi, Kimberly Starker)

ONE: When anyone is joined to Christ,
there is a new creation.

We have been reconciled to God through Christ.

God knows us completely and loves us.

We are a forgiven people.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE (Gwendolyn Breese)

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 (*Living Bible*)

A song to sing on the Lord's Day.

It is good to say thank you to the Lord, to sing praises to the God who is above all gods. **2** Every morning tell him, "Thank you for your kindness," and every evening rejoice in all his faithfulness. **3** Sing his praises, accompanied by music from the harp and lute and lyre. **4** You have done so much for me, O Lord. No wonder I am glad! I sing for joy. **12** But the godly shall flourish like palm trees and grow tall as the cedars of Lebanon. **13** For they are transplanted into the Lord's own garden and are under his personal care. **14** Even in old age they will still produce fruit and be vital and green. **15** This honors the Lord and exhibits his faithful care. He is my shelter. There is nothing but goodness in him!

ANTHEM *Surely No One Can Be Safer* (#487)

Kacie Turnbull, Leona Tyler*, Elspeth Hunter*

Bob Oehme, organ

(* recipients of UCC Music Lesson Scholarships)

Linda Sandell, 1855;

Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

SWEDISH FOLK MELODY

Surely no one can be safer
Than God's children, held in favor,
Not the stars so brightly burning,
Not the birds to nests returning.

With the flock God is abiding,
Heaven's plenty all providing,
Rich in mercy, never sparing,
Like a father, gently caring.

None shall ever meet rejection,
Be denied God's own protection;
Has there been a friend who better
Knows our hopes, our fears that fetter?

Whether taking, whether giving,
God alone remains forgiving,
And with one true purpose holy
to preserve our welfare solely.

SCRIPTURE (Melodie Posner)

Mark 4:26-34 (*Living Bible*)

26 “Here is another story illustrating what the Kingdom of God is like: “A farmer sowed his field **27** and went away, and as the days went by, the seeds grew and grew without his help. **28** For the soil made the seeds grow. First a leaf blade pushed through, and later the heads of wheat formed, and finally the grain ripened, **29** and then the farmer came at once with his sickle and harvested it.”**30** Jesus asked, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story shall I use to illustrate it? **31-32** It is like a tiny mustard seed! Though this is one of the smallest of seeds, yet it grows to become one of the largest of plants, with long branches where birds can build their nests and be sheltered.”**33** He used many such illustrations to teach the people as much as they were ready to understand. **34** In fact, he taught only by illustrations in his public teaching, but afterwards, when he was alone with his disciples, he would explain his meaning to them.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT (Linda Oehme and Jen Mallozzi)

PRESENTATION OF STOLES

1st YEAR STOLE (*Stole with Name- Welcome*)

Kimberly Starker

2nd YEAR STOLE (*Crosses- Jesus is always with us*)

3rd YEAR STOLE (*Fish- Fishers of People*)

Jay Conant

Kyle Conant

Neil Conant

4th YEAR STOLE (*Dove- The Spirit of Peace*)

Leona Tyler

5th YEAR STOLE (*Olive leaf- Anointed*)

Luci Yantz

Mya Yantz

6th YEAR STOLE (*Candle- The Light is always with us*)

9-YEAR RECOGNITION - 7th YEAR STOLE (*Alpha and Omega*)

Gwendolyn Breese

Melodie Posner

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Kyle Conant, Leona Tyler, Melodie Posner, Gwendolyn Breese, Mya Yantz, Jay Conant, Neil Conant, Luci Yantz)

Let us pray.

Holy One, you call us to trust in you.

With that trust, we offer our prayers to you.

We pray for our community: build us up to be able to withstand the storms that may come.

We pray for clarity in times of confusion.

Compassionate God, you watch and protect the world.

Yet the nations bicker and fight each other,

sometimes preferring easy wars over hard conversations about peace.

We pray that the leaders of the nations turn from destructive ways of governing to help build a world where all are respected and all have enough.

We pray for lasting peace and understanding among ALL peoples.

Hope-bringing, joy-giving God,
You call us to live meaningful lives full of love and delight.
We pray for those who are sick, lonely, suffering, and in prison,
that their hearts may be lifted up and they may be comforted.
We pray for those who live on the margins of society—
the homeless, those with addictions, those with mental health struggles.
May we be moved to reach out to them, that they might know your love.
We pray for the healing of the body, mind and spirit for all who suffer.

God of all people,
We live in a wealthy world full of sunlight, clean water, and good food.
Yet many go to bed hungry, thirsty and fearful.
We pray that all may eat and drink until satisfied and sleep undisturbed.

Life-giving God,
you have walked beside us, nurtured and taught us from the beginning of human history.
We thank you for the gentle way in which you nourish and care for all your people.
We celebrate our life in you.

God, our mother and father,
You sent your Child, Jesus, to be our brother and teach us your way.
We pray for the church, for one another, and for ourselves,
that we may be your hands, your feet, your heart, and your voice.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Kimberly Starker)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen!

INTERLUDE *Amazing Grace*

Leona Tyler* and Jason Handy, pianists
(*recipient of a UCC Music Lesson Scholarship)

arranged by Nancy and Randall Farber

BLESSING (Mary Williams)

May the peace of God rest upon our busy lives so that we may be quieted into prayer.
May the presence and example of Christ give us courage to step out of our fears or complacency.
And may the wind of the Spirit awaken us to new possibilities for our lives.
Amen!!

HYMN *God Be with You* (#81)

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880
Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU
William G. Tomer, 1880

God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain

*Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.*

God be with you till we meet again;
Wings of shelter safely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain*

God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain*

God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain*

BENEDICTION (Pastor John)

May the love of God motivate us,
and the example of Jesus show us the way.
May the Holy Spirit empower our small of caring
to grow and expand to transform our world. Amen.

POSTLUDE *The Joyful Trumpet*
Meena Conant, organ

Lani Smith

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