

**United Church of Christ, First Congregational  
Norwich, New York  
July 4, 2021 – Worship Video**

**PRELUDE**    *God of the Ages (God of Our Fathers)*  
Bob Oehme, organ

Mary McDonald  
**NATIONAL HYMN** by George Warren

**WELCOME** (Pastor John)

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (Ericka Tyler)  
Steadfast God, you sent Jesus as witness  
that no one is outside your healing reach.  
Help us to trust in the abundance of your love  
as we share your compassion and generosity  
wherever we may go,  
with you, in Christ, and through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Linda Oehme)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Brad Morrison)  
ONE: Beautiful are the words of God!  
**ALL: Beautiful also are the skins of God's people!**  
ONE: Beautiful is the mind of God!  
**ALL: Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!**  
ONE: Beautiful is the heart of God!  
**ALL: Beautiful also are the souls of God's people!**  
ONE: God made the heavens and the earth!  
**ALL: To God be the glory for the things God has done.**

**HYMN**    *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us* (#252)                      Attributed to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847)  
Tune: BRADBURY by William B. Bradbury, 1859

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need your tender care;  
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your folds prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are.

We are yours, in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;  
Keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray,  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

Let us always seek your favor; let us always do your will;  
Jesus Christ our only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.

**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** (Brad Morrison)

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

**5** Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Look, we are your bone and flesh. **2** For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel." **3** So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. **4** David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. **5** At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. **9** David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inward. **10** And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

**ANTHEM**    *O Savior Let Me Walk with You* (#503) Tune: MARYTON by H. Percy Smith, 1874  
Words Washington Gladden, 1879

O Savior, let me walk with You  
in earthly paths of service true.  
Tell me Your secret; help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move  
by some clear, winning word of love;  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Your patience! Let me be  
in closer, dearer company,  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong;

in hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broadning way,  
In peace that only You can give,  
With You, O Savior, let me live.

**SCRIPTURE** (Ericka Tyler)

Mark 6:1-13

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup> On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! <sup>3</sup> Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary<sup>[a]</sup> and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense<sup>[b]</sup> at him. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." <sup>5</sup> And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. <sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup> He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup> He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; <sup>9</sup> but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup> He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. <sup>11</sup> If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." <sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. <sup>13</sup> They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

**SERMON** (Pastor John)

**INTERLUDE** Melita  
Meena Conant, organ

Rev. John Bacchus Dykes

**A LITANY OF INTERCESSION (NCH #878)** (Pastor John)

ONE: Gracious God, who loves all and forgets none, we bring to you our prayers for all your children.  
For all whom we love, watch over, and care for;

**ALL: Hear us, O God.**

ONE: For all prisoners and captives, and all who suffer from oppression, that you will manifest your mercy toward them, and make all hearts as merciful as your own.

**ALL: Hear us, O God.**

ONE: For all who bear the cross of suffering, the sick in body or mind;

**ALL: Hear us, O God.**

ONE: For all those who are troubled by the sin or suffering of those they love;

**ALL: Hear us, O God.**

ONE: For all who are absorbed in their own grief, that they may be raised to share the sorrows of others, and know the saving grace of the cross;

**ALL: Hear us, O God.**

ONE: For all perplexed by the deeper questions of life and overshadowed with doubt, that your light may guide them;

**ALL: Hear us, O God.**

ONE: For all who are tried by temptations or weakness, that your mercy maybe their strength.

**ALL: Hear us, O God.**

ONE: For all who are lonely and sad in the mist of others' joy, that they may know you as their friend and comforter;

**ALL: Hear us, O God.**

ONE: For the infirm and aged and for all who are dying, that they may find their strength in you and light at the evening time;

**ALL: Hear us, O God.**

ONE: For all forgotten by us, but dear to you;

**ALL: Hear us, O God.**

ONE: O compassionate God, hear our prayers, answer them according to your will, and make us channels of your infinite grace, through Jesus Christ we pray.

**ALL: Amen.**

**BLESSING** (Pastor John)

May the steadfast love of God give you hope,  
the redeeming power of Christ give you courage,  
the abiding presence of Spirit give you strength,  
as you serve the will of God  
this day and every day.

**POSTLUDE** *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*  
Bob Oehme, organ

Mary McDonald  
BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC  
Traditional American Melody

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