

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

OCTOBER 23, 2022



Photo by Craig Melville

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Karina Roth

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter:

Liturgist: Linda Noble

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

## Words to Enter Worship

People who like Matthew: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

God makes me lie down in green pastures; leading me beside still waters;

People who like Mark: God restores my soul. Leading me in right paths for love's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

People who like Luke: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

People who like John: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

## Words of Lament

Merciful and Compassionate Creator, women across the world suffer because we have been brought up and told that women are something less than men in worth, capability, and action. Women across the world suffer because we have constructed families, societies, religions, and patriarchy that forces them into servitude rather than partnership. Women suffer across the world because we have not done enough and are not doing enough to lift them up, love them for who they truly are, and repeal the laws and norms that pin them down. God, who is Mother to us all, who gave birth to the universe and all humans, hold us to account that we may repent our foolish ways that have real, tragic consequences for your children. Show us the better way. Bring us into the world where in Christ there is no male or female. Amen.

## Words of Blessing (Based on Psalm 84)

**One:** How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD, my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

**Many:** Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my God.

**All:** Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

**One:** Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**Many:** As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

**All:** They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

## Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.

Our Home is Possessed  
By Mahnaz Badihian

At night we turn to our rooftop  
From rooftop to rooftop we protest  
Asking ferociously: where is the compassionate God  
Our voice echoes with the wind, blow dear courageous wind  
Our voice grows taller than poplar trees, so together we stand  
Up there, our naked souls together invent bravery, in the moonlight  
From rooftop to rooftop we go, till the gaze of morning glories calls us  
Up there, again we ask ourselves: who measured God on the rooftops  
But we know up there the hands of fear are bigger than the eyes of truth

## Passing of the Peace

### Scripture Readings

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture** 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 (Common English Bible)

<sup>6</sup> I'm already being poured out like a sacrifice to God, and the time of my death is near. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> At last the champion's wreath that is awarded for righteousness is waiting for me. The Lord, who is the righteous judge, is going to give it to me on that day. He's giving it not only to me but also to all those who have set their heart on waiting for his appearance.

<sup>16</sup> No one took my side at my first court hearing. Everyone deserted me. I hope that God doesn't hold it against them! <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that the entire message would be preached through me and so all the nations could hear it. I was also rescued from the lion's mouth! <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil action and will save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and always. Amen.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture** Luke 18:9-14 (New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition)

<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people:

thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' <sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

## **Children's Message**

Before God...

**Message** All who humble themselves

## **Musical Reflections**

### **Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, Mother God, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

## **Our Time of Giving**

### **Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

## **News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community**

### **Closing Hymn #454 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian**

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## **Benediction**

## **Sending Music**