

First Congregational United Church of Christ
OCTOBER 30, 2022



Photo by unknown

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Ben Nichols

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Carol Winter

Liturgist: Bob Carter

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship

People who like calendars: For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

People who like watches: a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance;

People who like big clocks: a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away;

People who like going with the flow: a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.

Words of Lament

Merciful God, we know you by many names and by many titles, and you have called yourself, "I am who I am" and "I will be who I will be." Creator, humans also call your children by many names, assign them many labels; mostly by pointing our differences, and ways we are separate and not equal. Rise up, O God, that we may hear you call all beloved, that we may stand together as siblings, as kin, and as joyful children. Cleanse our thoughts and tongues so we may bless each other and discover the blessings of unity. Amen

Words for Blessing of the Earth (written by Helen Weaver)

One: O, our Mother the Earth, blessed is your name. Blessed are your fields and forests, your rocks and mountains, your grasses and trees and flowers, and every green and growing thing.

Many: Blessed are your streams and lakes and rivers, the oceans where our life began, and all your waters that sustain our bodies and refresh our souls.

All: Blessed is the air we breathe, your atmosphere, that surrounds us and binds us to every living thing. Blessed are all the creatures who walk along your surface or swim in your waters or fly through your air, for they are all our relatives.

One: Blessed are all people who share this planet, for we are all one family, and the same spirit moves through us all. Blessed is the sun, our day star, bringer of morning and the heat of summer, giver of light and life.

Many: Blessed is the moon, our night lamp, ruler of the tides, protector of all women, and guardian of our dreams. Blessed are the stars and planets, the time-keepers, who fill our nights with beauty and our hearts with awe.

All: O Great Spirit whose voice we hear in the wind and whose face we see in the morning sun, blessed is your name. Help us to remember that you are everywhere, and teach us the way of peace.

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.

The Guest By Judy Dykstra-Brown

*Even though I try my best
to be the perfect sort of guest,
I fear I often foul the nest,
shedding objects east and west.
My flip flops and my cast-off vest
fall like petals as I get dressed.
I had not planned to be a pest,
with icebox leavings and the rest.
Hair brush, hairbands, toothbrush, Crest,
are left beneath the medicine chest.
And though I seem to speak in jest,
I fear that I have failed some test.
I have considered leaving, lest
this visit, started with such zest,
be ended at my host's behest.*

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Version)

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

² Grace to you and peace from God the¹ Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2nd Scripture Luke 19:1-10 (Common English Bible)

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. ² A man there named Zacchaeus, a ruler among tax collectors, was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but, being a short man, he couldn't because of the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay in your home today." ⁶ So Zacchaeus came down at once, happy to welcome Jesus.

⁷ Everyone who saw this grumbled, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸ Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I repay them four times as much."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today, salvation has come to this household because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ The Human One came to seek and save the lost."

Children's Message : Tax Collector

Message: Pester the Pastor

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 #471 What a Covenant (public domain)

- 1) What a "covenant, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, Leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, Leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

- 2) Oh how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Oh how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

- 3) What have I to dread. What Have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms
I have blessed peace with my Savior near, learning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Benediction

Sending Music