

# First Congregational United Church

OCTOBER 9, 2022



Photo by Marjan Blan

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere      Musician: Linda Noble

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter:

Liturgist: Bob Carter

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

## **Words to Enter Worship (Based on Luke 1:46-55)**

*People who:* **And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Redeemer, for favor has been given on this lowly servant.”**

*People who:* **God’s mercy is for those who love from generation to generation. God has shown strength with justice, scattering the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

*People who:* **God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; filling the hungry with good things and sending the rich away empty.**

*People who:* **God has helped the servant Israel in remembrance of mercy, according to the promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever.”**

## **Words of Lament**

**Merciful God, we are a scattered nation and a scattered world. We are a people who focus on what separates us rather than what draws us together. We fail time and time again to recognize each other’s humanity and one another as your beloved children. Arise, Just and Loving God, arouse your Spirit to cleanse our eyes and hearts so we may see our bonds to each other and to you. Heal our woundedness and plant your love in our hearts, minds, and communities for a better world for all. Amen.**

## **Words of Blessing (based upon Psalm 66)**

**One:** Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of God’s name, give to God glorious praise.

**Many:** Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! All Earth worships you, they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name.”

**All:** Come and see what God has done, awesome are the deeds among mortals. Turning sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.

**One:** There we rejoiced in God, who rules by might forever, who eyes keep watch on the nations – let the proud not exalt themselves.

**Many:** Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of praise be heard, who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

**All:** For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried, we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

## **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.

## America, I Sing Back

Allison Adelle Hedge Coke

*for Phil Young, my father, Robert Hedge Coke, Whitman, and Hughes*

*America, I sing back. Sing back what sung you in.  
Sing back the moment you cherished breath.  
Sing you home into yourself and back to reason.  
Oh, before America began to sing, I sung her to sleep,  
held her cradleboard, wept her into day.  
My song gave her creation, prepared her delivery,  
held her severed cord beautifully beaded.  
My song helped her stand, held her hand for first steps,  
nourished her very being, fed her, placed her three sisters strong.  
My song comforted her as she battled my reason  
broke my long-held footing sure, as any child might do.  
Lo, as she pushed herself away, forced me to remove myself,  
as I cried this country, my song grew roses in each tear's fall.  
My blood veined rivers, painted pipestone quarries  
circled canyons, while she made herself maiden fine.  
Oh, but here I am, here I am, here, I remain high on each and every peak,  
carefully rumbling her great underbelly, prepared to pour forth singing—  
and sing again I will, as I have always done.  
Never silenced unless in the company of strangers, singing  
the stoic face, polite repose, polite, while dancing deep inside, polite  
Mother of her world. Sister of myself.  
When my song sings aloud again. When I call her back to cradle.  
Call her to peer into waters, to behold herself in dark and light,  
day and night, call her to sing along, call her to mature, to envision—  
Then, she will make herself over. My song will make it so  
When she grows far past her self-considered purpose,  
I will sing her back, sing her back. I will sing. Oh, I will—I do.  
America, I sing back. Sing back what sung you in.*

### **Passing of the Peace**

#### **Scripture Readings (from the Message)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture** Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

**29** <sup>1-2</sup> This is the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to what was left of the elders among the exiles, to the priests and prophets and all the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken to Babylon from Jerusalem, including King Jehoiachin, the queen mother, the government leaders, and all the skilled laborers and craftsmen.

<sup>4</sup> This is the Message from GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, Israel's God, to all the exiles I've taken from Jerusalem to Babylon:

<sup>5</sup> "Build houses and make yourselves at home.

"Put in gardens and eat what grows in that country.

<sup>6</sup> "Marry and have children. Encourage your children to marry and have children so that you'll thrive in that country and not waste away.

<sup>7</sup> "Make yourselves at home there and work for the country's welfare.

"Pray for Babylon's well-being. If things go well for Babylon, things will go well for you."

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture** Luke 17:11-19 (Common English Bible)

<sup>11</sup> On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> As he entered a village, ten men with skin diseases approached him. Keeping their distance from him, <sup>13</sup> they raised their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, show us mercy!"

<sup>14</sup> When Jesus saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." As they left, they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> One of them, when he saw that he had been healed, returned and praised God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup> He fell on his face at Jesus' feet and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Weren't ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? <sup>18</sup> No one returned to praise God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Get up and go. Your faith has healed you."

**Children's Message** Give thanks always

**Message** Except this foreigner?

## **Musical Reflections**

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

**Our Father, Mother God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. The 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**

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

## **Benediction**

## **Sending Music**