

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
November 6, 2022



Photo by Anna Samoylova

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Chandler Litterest

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Nancy Starr

Liturgist: Ann Russ

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

## **Words to Enter Worship (Worship Resources By Amanda Wagoner and Katherine Ball)**

***People who like picnics: People of God it is time to worship, To remember to whom we belong***

***People who like dining room meals: One who rescues enslaved peoples, Both stories remembered in bread and cup***

***People who like fine dining: One who saves through forgiveness and grace, Alive again here in this place***

***People who like roadside cafes: Generous God, we come today to recommit ourselves to your covenant, to be your people, and your people alone. We come ready to worship you fully with all that we are, and all that we have faithfully. As we begin this season of generosity, may the nourishment that comes most fully at this sacred Table, inspire our own depth of faith and generosity. Amen***

### **Words of Lament**

**Generous God, we live under the paradigm of scarcity, that there isn't enough for ever human, every animal, plant, and habitat. We live as though it is either us or them. We are voting this week for our country and its future. There is not a lot of hope for our future given by any politician or party, just against the vision of the other. Almighty God, rise up, show us again your kingdom and our kindom here on earth. Remind us that your steadfast love endures forever and you are the still creating God, who makes all things new. Amen.**

### **Words for Blessing the Earth (Based on Psalm 98)**

**One:** O sing to the LORD a new song, for God has done marvelous things. God's right hand and holy arm have brought victory. The LORD has made known victory; revealing vindication in the sight of the nations.

**Many:** God has remembered steadfast love and faithfulness to the world, all the ends of the earth have seen the faithfulness of God.

**All:** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the LORD.

**One:** Let the sea roar and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

**Many:** Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy.

**All:** At the presence of the LORD, for God is coming bring to justice to the earth. God will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

### **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.**

## Loaves and Fishes

by David Whyte

*This is not  
the age of information.  
This is not  
the age of information.  
Forget the news,  
and the radio,  
and the blurred screen.  
This is the time  
of loaves  
and fishes.  
People are hungry  
and one good word is bread  
for a thousand.*

### Passing of the Peace

#### Scripture Readings

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture** 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 (The Message)

**2** <sup>1-3</sup> Now, friends, read these next words carefully. Slow down and don't go jumping to conclusions regarding the day when our Master, Jesus Christ, will come back and we assemble to welcome him. Don't let anyone shake you up or get you excited over some breathless report or rumored letter from me that the day of the Master's arrival has come and gone. Don't fall for any line like that.

<sup>3-5</sup> Before that day comes, a couple of things have to happen. First, the Apostasy. Second, the debut of the Anarchist, a partner in crime with Satan. He'll defy and then take over every so-called god or altar. Having cleared away the opposition, he'll then set himself up in God's Temple as "God Almighty." Don't you remember me going over all this in detail when I was with you? Are your memories that short?

<sup>13-14</sup> Meanwhile, we've got our hands full continually thanking God for you, our good friends—so loved by God! God picked you out as his from the very start. Think of it: included in God's original plan of salvation by the bond of faith in the living truth. This is the life of the Spirit he invited you to through the Message we delivered, in which you get in on the glory of our Master, Jesus Christ.

<sup>15-17</sup> So, friends, take a firm stand, feet on the ground and head high. Keep a tight grip on what you were taught, whether in personal conversation or by our letter. May Jesus himself and God our Father, who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you, invigorate your work, enliven your speech.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture** Mark 6:30-44 (New Revised Standard Version)

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest

a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup> And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup> Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup> When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; <sup>36</sup> send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” <sup>37</sup> But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” <sup>39</sup> Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. <sup>41</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup> And all ate and were filled, <sup>43</sup> and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. <sup>44</sup> Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

**Children’s Message:** 5,000???

**Message:** Feeding our Hearts, Minds, Bodies, and Souls

**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 – Stewardship Talk**

**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 #376 God, We Thank You For Our People

- 1) God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,  
Hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil  
Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised;  
Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised
- 2) Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure; lessons learned and secrets told  
Hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,  
Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.  
God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.
- 3) Still we must confess before you, sometimes, Savior, we have failed;  
Though we worship and adore you, sometimes love has not prevailed.  
Tempers racing, devil chasing, hearts estranged by ice or flame  
You transform by ways forgiving, Grace amazing! Grace, you name!
- 4) By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,  
Eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.  
Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,  
Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth

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## **Benediction**

## **Sending Music**