

First Congregational United Church of Christ

May 22, 2022



Photo by Max Kukurdziak

6th Sunday of Easter

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:

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (Based on Luke 4:18-19 & Isaiah 61:1-2)

People who love coffee: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

People who love the tea: because the Spirit has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

People who love the wine: The Spirit has sent me to proclaim release to the captive and recovery of sight to the blind,

People who love the water: to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.

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.

Have you ever hated anyone enough

Louise Glück, The Wild Iris

At the end of my suffering

there was a door.

*to ask an iris leaf to turn into a sword
sharp as the new moon, cold as a snowdrop,
irresistible as spring grass growing disorderly,
before it’s mown to match the wishes of one
demanding pair of eyes? Don’t lose focus.*

*Take one, narrow, curved iris leaf and hold it up.
If the heart you want to penetrate is hard enough*

to steal a country and the lives from its people;

if that heart won’t learn the wisdom of the iris,

the snowdrop and the moon – that life is mutable –

then that heart will feel the leaf turn to steel

and, to grant your wish, will stop beating.

*The iris will flower blue and yellow, as it should,
for the people returning to their country,
as they should, and there will be no blood
on your hands.*

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture - Acts 16:9-15

9 During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

11 We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. 13 On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. 14 A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. 15 When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Message: Had a Vision

Break into Groups

Group 1 - Sanctuary

Group 2 - South Room

Group 3 - Fellowship Hall

Quotation 1: Howard Thurman, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

What makes this congregation come alive?

Quotation 2: Frederick Buechner, "Your Calling Is Where Your Passions Meet The World's Needs"

What are some local, regional, and worldly needs?

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

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Sending Music

Benediction