

First Congregational United Church of Christ
June 4, 2023



Photo by Jeremy Bishop

1st Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Chandler Litterst

Peace Candle Lighter: Ann Russ Liturgist: Linda Noble

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (based on Psalm 8)

People who like green grass: O LORD, our sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and avenger.

People who like flowers: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established: what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them.

People who like dandelions: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

People who like gardens: All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea. O LORD, O Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Opening Hymn #84 - "This is the Day"

This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.

This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day Jesus rose again, we will rejoice and be glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again.

This is the day, this is the day when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day when the Spirit came, we will rejoice and be glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spirit came.

Les Garrett, 1967

Words of Lament

O Still-Speaking God, share with us why you have given us dominion over all living things? Share with us why we can't treat others the way we want to be treated? Share with us how the world was created good, yet we seem to struggle with so much just get by?... Answer us, Almighty God, and shine light upon your world as we muddle about. Amen.

Time of Silence

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.

“Some Keep the Sabbath going to Church” by Emily Dickinson

Some keep the Sabbath going to Church –
I keep it, staying at Home –
With a Bobolink for a Chorister –
And an Orchard, for a Dome –
Some keep the Sabbath in Surplice –
I, just wear my Wings –
And instead of tolling the Bell, for Church,
Our little Sexton – sings.
God preaches, a noted Clergyman –
And the sermon is never long,
So instead of getting to Heaven, at last –
I’m going, all along.

Passing of the Peace

Hymn #327 - “Jesus Loves Me”

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, “Let them come to Me.”

Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live.

Text: Anna B. Warner (1860), David. R. McGuire (1970)

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture - 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

¹¹ Finally, siblings, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

2nd Scripture - Genesis 1:1-2:4a

1:1 At the beginning of God's (Elohim) creating of the heavens and the earth, ² when the earth was wild and waste, darkness over the face of Ocean, rushing-spirit (ruah) of God over the face of the waters – ³ God said: Let there be light! And there was light. ⁴ God saw the light: that it was good. God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God call the light: Day! and the darkness he called: Night! There was setting, there was dawning: one day.

⁶ God said: Let there be a dome amid the waters, and let it separate waters from waters!

⁷ God made the dome and separated the waters that were below the dome from the waters that were above the dome. It was so. ⁸ God called the dome: Heaven! There was setting, there was dawning; second day.

⁹ God said: Let the waters under the heavens be gathered to one place, and let the dry land be seen! It was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land: Earth! And the gathering of the waters he called: Seas! God saw that it was good. ¹¹ God said, Let the earth sprout forth with sprouting growth, plants that seed forth seeds, fruit trees that yield fruit, after their kind, (and) in which spread their seed, upon the earth! It was so. ¹² The earth brought forth sprouting-growth, plants that seed forth seeds, after their kind, trees that yield fruit, in which is their seed, after their kind. God saw that it was good. ¹³ There was setting, there was dawning: third day.

¹⁴ God said: Let there be lights in the dome of the heavens, to separate the day from night, that they may be signs – for set-times, for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be for lights in the dome of the heavens, to provide light upon the earth! It was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights, the greater light for ruling the day and the smaller light for ruling the night, and the stars. ¹⁷ God places them in the dome of the heaves ¹⁸ to provide light upon the earth, to rule the day and the night, to separate the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ There was setting, there was dawning: fourth day.

²⁰ God said: Let the waters swarm with a swarm of living beings, and let the fowl fly above the earth across the dome of the heavens! ²¹ God created the great sea-serpents and all living beings that crawl about, with which the waters swarmed, after their kind, and all winged fowl after their kind. God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying: Bear fruit and be many and fill the waters in the seas, and let the fowl be many on the earth! ²³ There was setting, there was dawning: fifth day.

²⁴ God said: Let the earth bring forth living beings after their kind, herd-animals, crawling things, and the wildlife of the earth after their kind! It was so. ²⁵ God made the wildlife of the earth after their kind, and the herd-animals after their kind, and all crawling things of the soil after their kind. God saw that it was good. ²⁶ God said: Let us make humankind, in our image, according to our likeness! Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the heavens, animals, all the earth, and all crawling things that crawl upon the earth!

²⁷ God created humankind in his image, in the image of God did he create it, male and female did he create them. ²⁸ God blessed them, God said to them: Bear fruit and be many

and fill the earth and subdue it! Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the heavens, and all living things that crawl upon the earth! ²⁹God said: Here, I give you all plants that bear seeds that are upon the face of all the earth, and all trees in which there is tree fruit that bears seeds, for you shall they be, for eating; ³⁰and also for all living things of the earth, for all the fowl of the heavens, for all that crawls about upon the earth in which there is living being – all green plants for eating. It was so. ³¹Now God saw all the he had made, and here: it was exceedingly good! There was setting, there was dawning: the sixth day.

^{2:1}Thus were finished the heavens and the earth, with all of their array. ²God had finished, on the seventh day, from all his work that he had made. ³God gave the seventh day his blessing, and he hallowed it, for on it he ceased from all his work, that by creating, God had made. ⁴These are the begettings of the heavens and the earth: their being created.

Children's Message - God Blessed Them

Choir Anthem - "Bend the Arc"

Message - This is Good Sabbath

Musical Reflections

Baptisms of Sabelle Ruby Miller and Audrey Marie Miller

Sacrament of Baptism

Welcome -

One: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them...

Many: **"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."**

One: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

Address -

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into care of Christ's church, the sign and the seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

Response: **This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin, and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

Questions of the Candidates -

Pastor: Do you desire to have your children baptized in the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: **We do.**

Pastor: Will you encourage these youth to renounce the powers of evil and receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents and God Parents: **We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Will you teach these youth that they may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents and God Parents: **We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ, as best you are able?

Parents and God Parents: **We do, with the promise of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with these youth in Christian faith, to help these youth be faithful members of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that they may affirm their baptisms?

Parents and God Parents: **We do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Sabelle and Audrey, do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Sabelle and Audrey: **I am.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Sabelle and Audrey: **I promise, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in Christian faith and be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Sabelle and Audrey: **I promise, with the help of God.**

Congregational Assent -

Pastor: Jesus call us to make disciples of all the nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the ones about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

People: **We promise our love, support, and care.**

Affirmation of Faith -

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God? *People:* **We believe in God.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ? *People:* **We believe in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? *People:* **We believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Prayer of Baptism/Blessing of Water -

Act of Baptism -

Pastor: By what names shall these youth be called?

Parents: **Sabelle Ruby Miller and Audrey Marie Miller**

Prayer for the Baptized -

Pastor: Let us prayer for the two baptized today...

All: Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless this newly baptized youth. May they be filled with joy; may they never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you. Bless the parents of these youth. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by love and caring for Sabelle and Audrey. Bless these your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Our Time of Giving

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, making us one;

Justice and peace under the sun. Amen

Closing Hymn #575- "O for a World"

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice,
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where Time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Tune: AZMON C.M., Adapt. Lowell Mason

Benediction
Sending Music

