

First Congregational United Church of Christ

November 13, 2022



Photo by Anna

23rd 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:

Liturgist:

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

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

People who love gardening: **People of God it is time to worship**

To remember to whom we belong

People who love fishing: **One who rescues enslaved peoples**

One who saves through forgiveness and grace

People who support CSA: **Both stories remembered in bread and cup**

Alive again here in this place

People who love locally-sourced meals: **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

Holy God of Covenant, in our worship and in our lives, we are called again and again to be light to the world as we tell of Your mighty acts of past and present, we are called to deeds of love and mercy, we are called to faithful stewardship of our resources. Too often we find that our witness, mission, and stewardship have grown tired, weak, and confused. Forgive us and turn us again to deeper discipleship within the Community of Christ. Amen

Words for Blessing the Earth (In Praise of the Earth by John O'Donohue)

One: **Let us bless the imagination of the Earth. That knew early the patience to harness the mind of time, waited for the seas to warm, ready to welcome the emergence of things dreaming of voyaging among the stillness of the land.**

Many: **And how light knew to nurse grow until the face of the Earth brightened beneath a vision of color.**

All: **When the ages of ice came and sealed the Earth inside an endless coma of cold, the heart of the Earth held hope, storing fragments of memory, read for the return of the sun.**

One: **Let us thank the Earth that offers ground from home and holds our feet firm to walk in space open to the infinite galaxies. Let us salute the silence and certainty of the mountains, their sublime stillness, their dream filled hearts.**

Many: **The wonder of a garden thrusting for the first warmth of spring until its black infinity of cells becomes charged with dream; then the silent slow nurture of seed's self, coaxing it to trust to the act of death.**

All: **The kindness of the Earth, opening to receive our worn forms into the final stillness. May we remember within us the ancient clay, holding the memory of the seasons, the passion of the wind, the fluency of water, the warmth of fire, and quiver-touch of the sun and shadowed sureness of the moon.**

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.

Communion by Rev. Enno K. Limvere

*Are we human beings having a spiritual experience?
Are we spiritual beings having a human experience?*

When all is finished, what is left,

An empty shell, an energy fleeting away?

A sacrament is a ritual that is sacred.

Sacred is the divine-infused act of love.

Communion takes the fruit and grain of the earth,

The body of Christ, our bodies, and Spirit

To intertwine them in ways beyond imagination.

Communion can be felt, it can heal and nourish,

It can bring tears and joy.

In that moment, in this moment,

Love, the steadfast love of God, becomes real,

In our hearts, mind, soul, and body, love becomes real.

So the answer is yes, it is all of the above, and so much more.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture Isaiah 65:17-25 (Common English Bible)

¹⁷ Look! I'm creating a new heaven and a new earth:

past events won't be remembered; they won't come to mind.

¹⁸ Be glad and rejoice forever in what I'm creating,

because I'm creating Jerusalem as a joy and her people as a source of gladness.

¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad about my people.

No one will ever hear the sound of weeping or crying in it again.

²⁰ No more will babies live only a few days, or the old fail to live out their days.

The one who dies at a hundred will be like a young person,

and the one falling short of a hundred will seem cursed.

²¹ They will build houses and live in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² They won't build for others to live in, nor plant for others to eat.

Like the days of a tree will be the days of my people; my chosen will make full use of their handiwork.

²³ They won't labor in vain, nor bear children to a world of horrors,

because they will be people blessed by the LORD, they along with their descendants.

²⁴ Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear.

²⁵ Wolf and lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but the snake—its food will be dust.

They won't hurt or destroy at any place on my holy mountain, says the LORD.

2nd Scripture Matthew 26:26-29 (The Message)

26-29 During the meal, Jesus took and blessed the bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples:

Take, eat.

This is my body.

Taking the cup and thanking God, he gave it to them:

Drink this, all of you.

This is my blood,

God's new covenant poured out for many people
for the forgiveness of sins.

"I'll not be drinking wine from this cup again until that new day when I'll drink with you in the kingdom of my Father."

Children's Message: What is Communion?

Message: The Last Supper

Musical Reflections

Communion

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

Our Father, Mother God, who are 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 #347 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

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1. Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy.
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain:

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2. Christ is able to make us one.
At the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. [Refrain]
3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share;
God (Emmanuel) everywhere! [Refrain]

Benediction

Sending Music