

First Congregational United Church of Christ

June 11, 2023



2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere **Guest Preacher:** Matt Lewellyn-Otten

Musician: Ben Nichols **Guest Choir:** Matins Choir of Plymouth Church

Peace Candle Lighter: KathyAnn Travis **Liturgist:** Linda Noble

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude – Matins Choir

God Is Our Refuge Allen Pote

Steve Billingsley – trumpet & Ella Christensen – horn

Words to Enter Worship (Based on the Beatitudes)

People who want to be loved: Blessed are the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, for they will inherit the earth.

People who have someone to love: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.

People who have a family who loves them: Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely. Rejoice and be glad, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who went before you.

People who celebrate God's diversity of love: You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good work.


Opening Hymn

KINDOM

(c) 2021 Rev. Enno K. Limvere

REV. ENNO K. LIMVERE

A C#m D A D A E E



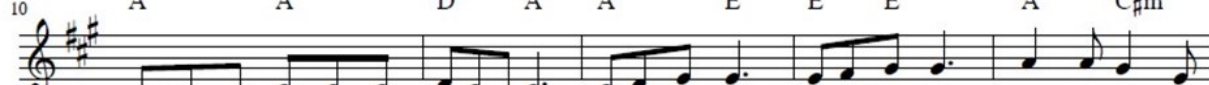
1. Do you know how loved you are? You are God's own Shin - ing star.
2. Do you know how good your are? God has filled with love your heart.
3. Do you know what joy you bring? Hug - ging you makes my heart sing.
4. Do you know you're wel - come here? Gay or straight, trans - gen - dered, queer

5 A C#m D A D A E A



All the parts that make you whole. Shine your light your love your soul The
Al - so joy, peace, gen - tle - ness. Help - ing you to live your best.
O - pen hearts, and mind and soul. Show - ing love's heal - thy and whole.
Your i - den - ti - ty is blessed. God's di - ver - si - ty en - fleshed.

10 A A D A A E E E A C#m



kin - dom of God starts with fa - m - il - y. It in - cludes you, it in - cludes me. With - out you we

15 D A D A E A



can - not be, ful - ly whol - ly Christ's bo - dy.

Words of Lament

Most merciful God, we come before you as a people full of joy, as well as sorrow. Joy for the love we celebrate this month. And sorrow for the pain we see in the world, inflicted on our LGBTQA+ kindred. Forgive us, God, for the ways that we have failed to love deeply... for the ways we forget your way of peace... May we be a people of reconciliation and love... May the hearts and minds of us all be stirred to see a better way. A way of love. 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.

Breathe. As in. (shadow)

Rosamond S. King

Breathe
. As in what if
the shadow is gold
en? Breathe. As in
hale assuming
exhale. Imagine
that. As in first
person singular. Homonym
:  . As in subject. As
in centeroftheworld as in
mundane. The opposite of spectacle
spectacular. This is just us
breathing. Imagine
normalized respite
gold in shadows
. You have the
right to breathe and remain
. Imagine
that

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture Romans 8:28-39 (The Message with adapted pronouns)

26-28 Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. They does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. They knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.

29-30 God knew what they was doing from the very beginning. They decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love them along the same lines as the life of the Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity they restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in them. After God made that decision of what their children should be like, they followed it up by calling people by name. After they called them by name, they set them on a solid basis with theirself. And then, after getting them established, they stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what they had begun.

31-39 So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing theirself to the worst by sending their own Son, is there anything else they wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us! —is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture:

They kill us in cold blood because they hate you.
We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.

None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

2nd Scripture Matthew 19:12-15 (New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition)

¹² For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let anyone accept this who can.'

¹³ Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; ¹⁴ but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.' ¹⁵ And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

Children's Message - Bodies are Cool

Choir Anthem – *Child of God* Mark A. Miller

Ava & Delaney Boldt, Buck Pattinson – soloists

Message

Musical Reflections - You Are Mine David Haas

Georgia Billingsley, cello

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

Communion Hymn "Let us Break Bread Together"

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

Spiritual

Verses



1. Let us break bread to-gether on our knees; Let us break
2. Let us drink wine to-gether on our knees; Let us drink
3. Let us praise God to-gether on our knees; Let us praise

Refrain



1. bread to-gether on our knees; When I fall on my knees,
2. wine to-gether on our knees;
3. God to-gether on our knees;



With my face to the ris-ing sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: 10 10 with refrain; Spiritual. Music: LET US BREAK BREAD.

Communion

Matins Choir - Lord, I Want to be a Christian Kathy A. Bowen

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

Nothing Can Separate Us

Words and Music: Amy Sens

No- thing can se- pa - ra - te us from the deep, deep love of God. Not

6 trials or temp - ta - tions, from the deep, deep love of God. 1. In
2. If
3. God's

10 times of deep - est sor - row, when all joy seems lost and gone, Christ
God our judge is for us, then who can stand a - gainst? Christ
love: the ground we walk on, God's love: the air we breathe, God's

14 stays our true com - pa - nion; we are ne - ver left a - lone.
Je - sus laid his life down, our way to make a - mends.
love: the sim - ple sun - shine, God's love: our own heart beat.

Tune: BORG
7.7.7.D

Benediction

Sending Music - Praise His Holy Name Keith Hampton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST: Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Gwen Dornfeld, Sally Dunn, Family of SueEllen Kruse, Family of Jan Johnson, Family of Bob Carter, for Levi Axtell and Family, Family of Lawrence Scully, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, and Syria, and Planet Earth.

Shut-ins and Care Center: Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes, Nancy Cihlar and Tom Hedstrom.

MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2023 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2023, showing a need for a yearly income of \$164,110.00. After Twenty one weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$70,754.99. The Actual Donations so far this year have been \$80,910.54.

Thank you for your Support! - Kevin LeVoir, Treasurer

THIS WEEK:

THURSDAY, June 8

10:00 AM – No Tai Chi as Pastor Enno and Bruce are gone

10:00 AM – Boundary Training for Pastor Enno

FRIDAY, June 9

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch

10:00 AM – Start of the Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting
Bruce Tyler and Nancy Giguere attending as delegates

SATURDAY, June 10

Cook County Pride Event

9 am: Free yoga with Carly at Harbor Park

10 am-12 pm: Arts, Crafts, and Sign Making at the HUB

12-1 pm: Drag Queen Story Hour at the HUB

1:30-2:30 pm: Out Front MN Presentation at the HUB

3-5 pm: Event Set-Up Harbor Park - Volunteers Welcome

5-6:30 pm: Rally and March Harbor Park

6:30-7:30 pm: Free Dinner and Social Hour at Harbor Park

8:30-11pm: DJ Dance After-Party at Up Yonder

9:00am-5:30 pm - **Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting**

SUNDAY, June 11

9:00 AM – Set up for Worship at Harbor Park

10:30 AM Worship Service – **Harbor Park** AND ON [ZOOM](#) **2nd Sunday after Pentecost**, Matt Llewellyn-Otter from Out Front Minnesota will be giving us the good word this morning as we gather down in Harbor Park to help celebrate Cook County Pride. Pilgrim UCC from Des Moines, IA are gracing us with a Youth Matins Choir. Bring a lawn chair and a joyful spirit. Communion will be served, all are welcome.

2:00 PM – Worship at Care Center

MONDAY June 12

7:00 PM – AI-Anon

TUESDAY, June 13

7:00 PM – Faith Leaders on Earth (Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light)

Learn more by clicking [HERE](#)

WEDNESDAY, June 14

5:30 PM – Journey Discipleship Group

6:00 PM – Sing-a-Long

THURSDAY, June 15

10:00 AM – Tai Chi

15:00 AM – Eco-Preacher Cohort

FRIDAY, June 16

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch

SATURDAY, June 17

9:30 AM – 7th Day Adventist Church

SUNDAY, June 18

9:30 AM – Choir Practice

10:30 AM Worship Service – *Inside* AND ON [ZOOM](#) 3rd **Sunday after Pentecost**, Jesus, in the gospel of Matthew, sends out the 12 out by themselves to share God's love, to heal those we come across, and give God's peace. There are lots of warnings that Jesus gives them about what they are going to face out in the world, but he sends them out nevertheless, because they are needed.

