

First Congregational United Church of Christ
July 2, 2023



Prophet Jeremiah by Duccio di Buoninsegna

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter:

Liturgist:

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (Based on Psalm 67)

People who love all people: **May God be gracious to us and bless and make their face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving powers among all nations.**

People who love our country: **Let the people praise you, O God, let all the peoples praise you.**

People who love justice: **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the people with equity and guide the nations upon the earth. Let the nations praise you, let all the peoples praise you.**

People who love the earth: **The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us. May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere our Creator.**

Opening Hymn #2 Glory, Glory Hallelujah

1. Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down. Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.
2. I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down. I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.
3. Feel like shouting "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burdens down. Feel like shouting "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burdens down.
4. I am dancing Miriam's dance now, since I laid my burdens down. I am dancing Miriam's dance now, since I laid my burdens down.
5. I am climbing Jacob's ladder, since I laid my burden's down. I am climbing Jacob's ladder, since I laid my burdens down.
6. Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down. Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down.

African-American Spiritual, arrangement copyright 1992 the Pilgrim Press

Words of Lament

Almighty God, our country was created with the promise of the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, but too often lives are cut short because people live in the wrong zip code, have the wrong skin color, or don't speak the language. Merciful God, hold us accountable so that our country's laws and actions match its ideals. Judge us surely and swiftly so all may partake in the goodness of this nation. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Time of Silence

Blessing of the Earth

Canticle of the Creatures (Attributed to St. Francis)

One: All praise be yours, my Lord, through all that you have made.

Many: **And first my Lord Brother Sun, who brings the day...
How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.**

All: **All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and Stars;
In the heavens you have made them, bright and precious and fair.**

All praise be Yours, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air...

One: All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water,
So useful, lowly, precious, and pure.

Many: **All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you brighten up the night...**

All: **All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Earth, our mother,
Who feeds us...and produces various fruits
With colored flowers and herbs...**

**Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks,
And serve him with great humility.**

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.

A Cup of Cold Water by Enoch

I am not asking for your best wine
Nor a three-course meal
I'm accepting the Lord's mercy, grace, and a love that seals...
Fate, Unity, Life

All in a cold cup of water

I refuse hate, deceit, and unnecessary pain
Humbly basking in joy, devotion, and a peace I claim...
Reconciliation, Redemption, Freedom

Through a cold cup of water

I am who I am, with all my flaws plain to see
There is nothing we can do, His salvation is a gift
With a price that was not free...
Sacrifice, Ridicule, Death

That we may live by this cold cup of water

A subtle suggestion to demonstrate that you care
God says to love our neighbor
What if you treated them as if God was sitting there

Awaiting His cold cup of water

Spread the love

Passing of the Peace

Hymn #591 This Is My Song

1. This is my song, O God of all nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine; But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

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1st Scripture Jeremiah 28:5-9 (The Message)

⁵⁻⁹ Prophet Jeremiah stood up to prophet Hananiah in front of the priests and all the people who were in GOD's Temple that day. Prophet Jeremiah said, "Wonderful! Would that it were true—that GOD would validate your preaching by bringing the Temple furnishings and all the exiles back from Babylon. But listen to me, listen closely. Listen to what I tell both you and all the people here today: The old prophets, the ones before our time, preached judgment against many countries and kingdoms, warning of war and disaster and plague. So any prophet who preaches that everything is just fine and there's nothing to worry about stands out like a sore thumb. We'll wait and see. If it happens, it happens—and then we'll know that GOD sent him."

2nd Scripture Matthew 10:40-42 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

⁴⁰ "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

Children's Message

Choir Anthem

Message Tom Yuhasse (Moderator Extraordinaire)

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 #594 How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

1. How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain; our purple mountains as they rise above the fruitful plain. America! America! God's gracious gifts abound, and more and more we're grateful for life's bounty all around.
2. Indigenous and immigrant, our daughters and our sons; O may we never rest content till all are truly one. America! America! God grant that we may be a sisterhood and brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
3. How beautiful, sincere lament, the wisdom born of tears, the courage called for to repent the bloodshed through the years. America! America! God grant that we may be a nation blessed with none oppressed, true land of liberty.
4. How beautiful, two continents, and islands in the sea that dream of peace, non-violence, all people living free. Americas! Americas! God grant that we may be a hemisphere where people here all live in harmony.

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Benediction

