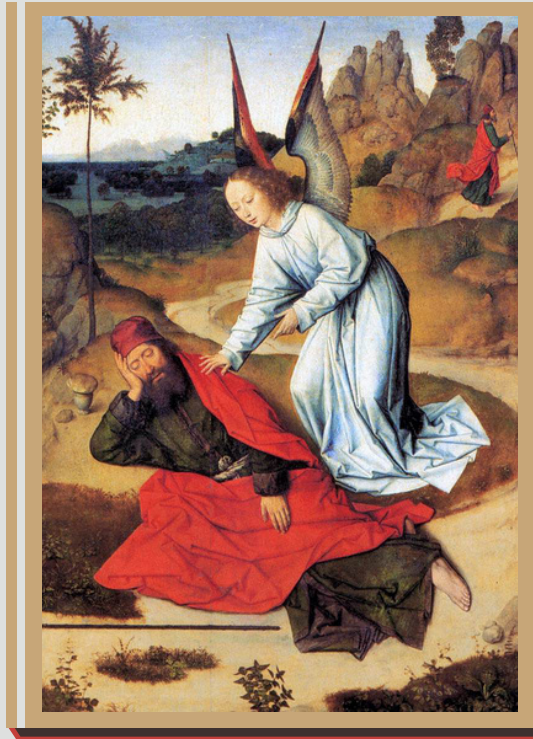




First Congregational United Church of Christ

August 13, 2023



Painting "Prophet Elijah in the Desert" by Dieric Bouts

"Going
up the
Mountain"

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Linda Noble

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Bruce Tyler

Liturgist: Carol Winter

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (based on Psalm 85)

People who have been on mountaintops: Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

People who have been in earthquakes: Let me hear what God will speak, for they speak peace to the people, to the faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

People who have been on water: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

People who have been heard in silence: The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before, and will make a path for our steps.

Opening Hymn #22 Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped ([click here](#))

Words of Lament

God of Justice, we have been taught to fear you and eternal damnation. We have been taught to fear authority and do whatever we have to do to avoid punishment, especially by submission... .

God of Love, dispel those harmful and hateful theologies, ideologies, and governances. Compassion is what you seek, restoration not retribution, and reunion, not revenge. Help us see your heart and join in your kindom, family, and kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. 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 peacemakers as a Just Peace Church.

[to top of mountain]

by unknown

to top of mountain
bottom of soul silence
sun framed saint whole

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture 1 Kings 19:1-15 (New Revised Standard Version)

19 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' 3 Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' 5 Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' 6 He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. 7 The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' 8 He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. 9 At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' 10 He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

11 He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' 14 He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' 15 Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.'

2nd Scripture Matthew 14:22-33

22 Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. 23 When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. 24 Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. 25 Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed.

27 Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."

28 Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water."

29 And Jesus said, "Come." Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. 30 But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!" 31 Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind settled down. 33 Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

Children's Message Walking on Water

Choir Anthem

Message Going up the Mountain

Musical Reflections

Communion Hymn #336 Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face ([click here](#))

Communion

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 God, all creatures here below;

Praise God, for all that love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

Closing Hymn #617 Unite and Join Your Cheerful Songs ([click here](#))

Benediction

Sending Music



Opening Hymn #22 Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

1. Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!
Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!
Glad some rejoice organ and trumpet and voice joining God's great
congregation.

2. Praise God our guardian, who lovingly offers correction,
Who, as on eagle's wings, saves us from sinful dejections.
Have you observed, how we are always preserved by God's parental affection?

3. Sing praise to God, with sincere thanks for all your successes.
Merciful God ever loves to encourage and bless us.
Only conceive, what godly strength can achieve: strength that would touch and
caress us.

4. Sing, praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending.
All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending.
God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight: amen, amen never ending.

Words: Joachim Neander, 1680. Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall,
1993.

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8. Erneuertem Gesangbuch,
Stralsund, 1665. Adapt. and harm. William S. Bennett, 1863.

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Hymn #336 Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to
Face

1. Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon you lean.

2. Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
here share the cup, the gracious gift of heaven;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

3. This is the hour of banquet and of song;
this is the heavenly table spread anew;
Here let me feast, and, feasting, still prolong
the brief, bright hour together here with you.

4. Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear;
the meal, but not your love, is past and gone.
This joyful feast confirms that you are here.
now and forever, as our shield and sun.

5. We have no help but yours, nor do we need
another strength than yours to lean upon.
It is enough, O Lord, enough indeed;
our faith in in your might, your might alone.

Words: Horatius Bona, 1855; alt.

Tune: MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10. Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870.

Alternate tune: LANDGRAN

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Closing Hymn #617 Unite and Join Your Cheerful
Songs

1. Unite and join your cheerful songs,
with angels 'round the throne;
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues
yet all their joys are one.

2. This is the way the church should strive,
in harmony below;
As members of the one body live,
one Sovereign shall you know.

3. Worthy the Lamb, the angels say,
to be exalted thus;
Amen, amen the saints reply,
the Lamb was slain for us.

4. Assist us, all above the sky,
on earth, and on the seas;
Unite and raise God's honors high,
in hymns of endless praise.

Words: Hymns and Spiritual Songs, ed. James O'Kelly, 1816 alt.
Tune: AMAZING GRACE (NEW BRITAIN) C.M. from Columbia
Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829. Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900. Alternate
Tune: LAND OF REST
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