



First Congregational United Church of Christ

August 6, 2023



"That They
May All
Be One"

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Francie Beaster

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter:

Liturgist: Ranna LeVoir

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (based on Psalm 145)

People who were raised Congregational: **The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

People who were raised Evangelical or Reformed: **The LORD is good to all, and compassion is over all that has been made.**

People who were raised Protestant: **The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.**

People who were raised Catholic or Orthodox: **The LORD is near to all who call upon God, who call upon them in truth.**

People who weren't raised in church or in another faith: **The LORD watches over all who love. Our mouths will speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh will bless their name forever and ever.**

Opening Hymn #89 Awake, Awake to Love and Work ([click here](#))

Words of Lament

Creator God, through whom and in whom all things are created and through whom we draw our breath. We lament that your church is so fractured, that too many choose hate over love, apathy over compassion, coveting over generosity, and identity over community. Speak to us, Mighty God, speak to all, again and again, that we may all be one and no one is left behind, hungry, wounded, or unloved. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Time of Silence

Blessing of the Earth – Four Directions Prayer

(Adapted from Diocese of Western North Carolina - Anglican Indigenous Ministries)

One: Let us turn our hearts to the West
From there the Thunders bring us cleansing rain
Creator God, heal us and our relatives

Many: Let us turn our hearts to the North
Winter comes to us from there and calls us to rest
Creator God, restore our strength

All: Let us turn our hearts to the East
The morning Sun begins each day there
Creator God awaken us and help us to walk with a renewed life

One: Let us turn our hearts to the South
Where the warm winds come from to give us comfort and joy

**Many: Creator God soothe our aching souls
Let us turn our hearts to the Sky
From there our Creator sees all around us**

**All: Creator God help us to trust you to lead us
Let us turn our hearts to the Earth
From there quiet wisdom comes to teach us
Creator God hear us as we pray**

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.

“today” by Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

We are the dawn, the first light in the morning sky
we are the beginning of new blooms
the evidence that love
has taken root and is at home among us.”

Passing of the Peace

Hymn #393 Blessed Be the Tie That Binds ([click here](#))

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture Galatians 3:25-4:7 (Common English Bible)

25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian.

26 You are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 Now if you belong to Christ, then indeed you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.

4 I'm saying that as long as the heirs are minors, they are no different from slaves, though they really are the owners of everything. 2 However, they are placed under trustees and guardians until the date set by the parents.

3 In the same way, when we were minors, we were also enslaved by this world's system. 4 But when the fulfillment of the time came, God sent his Son, born through a woman, and born under the Law. 5 This was so he could redeem those under the Law so that we could be adopted. 6 Because you are sons and daughters, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son or daughter, and if you are his child, then you are also an heir through God.

2nd Scripture John 17:20-24 (New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition)

20 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us,[a] so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Children's Message In this Together

Choir Anthem Come to the Water - John Foley

Message That They May All Be One

Musical Reflections

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

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 #451 Be Now My Vision ([click here](#))

Benediction

Sending Music



Opening Hymn #89 Awake, Awake to Love and Work

1. Awake, awake to love and work! The lark is in the sky;
the fields are wet the diamond dew; The worlds awake to cry
their praises to the Found of Life; Christ Jesus passes by.
2. Come, let your voice be one of theirs, shout with their shout of praise
See how the giant sun soars up, God's gift for all your days!
So let the love of Jesus come and set your soul ablaze,
3. To give and give, and give again, as God's own grace is free;
To spend yourself nor count the cost; To serve most gloriously
the God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.

Words: Geoffrey A. Studdert-Kennedy, 1921; alt.

Tune: MORNING SONG, Kentucky Harmony 1816, Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940.

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Hymn #393 Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

1. Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.

2. Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

3. We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.

4. When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

Words: John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

Tune: DENNIS S.M., Melody by Johann G. Nageli (c. 1768-1836), Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845.

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Closing Hymn #451 Be Now My Vision

1. Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart--
You my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

2. Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
now and forever your child I will be.

3. Riches I need not, no life's empty praise,
you, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
great God, my treasure, may we never part.

4. Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, o bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, what ever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10., Traditional Irish melody; Harm. David Evans, 1927.

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