

First Congregational United Church of Christ

May 21, 2023



Photo by Jack Sharp

7th Sunday of Easter

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Linda Noble

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Carol Winter

Liturgist: Linda Noble

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (Based on Psalm 68)

People who pray: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

People who pray while moving: O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens, listen God sends out their voice, their mighty voice.

People who pray in stillness: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies.

People who pray while singing: Awesome is God in the sanctuary, the God of Israel; God gives power and strength to the people. Blessed be God.

Opening Hymn - Let Us Pray (See Insert)

Words of Lament

Merciful God, the human race has forgotten how to be still. We have forgotten how to be in relationship with you, people, and all of creation. We value accomplishments and wealth over community and creativity... God, who speaks to us in the still small voice, help us to stop and be still, transform our beings and our world that draws us to peace, to abundance, and to prayer. 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 peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.

A Prayer In Each Season by Marius Alexandru

Pour over me the rain of Your love
and let the flowers of my soul bloom like never before,
Sift Your blessings from above,
Open once again the heavens door

Clothe me in Your divine Light,
Spark in me an ardent faith,
Make me a candle in the night,
Immerse me in Your glorious holy bathe.

Let The Holy Spirit's winds
caress my tired leaves,

and to blow new life through old pines,
You can do it, my heart believes.

Swing Your snowflakes down on me,
Make me white, whiter than snow,
I want all my friends to see
my clean heart, my happy glow.

Passing of the Peace

Hymn #547 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture John 17:1-11 (Common English Bible)

17 When Jesus finished saying these things, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, so that the Son can glorify you. ² You gave him authority over everyone so that he could give eternal life to everyone you gave him. ³ This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent. ⁴ I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I shared with you before the world was created.

⁶ “I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from this world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ This is because I gave them the words that you gave me, and they received them. They truly understood that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

⁹ “I’m praying for them. I’m not praying for the world but for those you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ Everything that is mine is yours and everything that is yours is mine; I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ I’m no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I’m coming to you. Holy Father, watch over them in your name, the name you gave me, that they will be one just as we are one.

2nd Scripture Acts 1:6-14

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and

Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Children's Message Being With God

Choir She Comes with Mother's Kindness

Message They Devoted Themselves

Musical Reflections

Anointing (Liturgy on Insert)

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;

Alleluia, alleluia

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Closing Hymn #282 Every Time, I Feel the Spirit

Benediction

Sending Music