

# Welcome to First Congregational Church

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

**June 7, 2020**

## OPENING MUSIC:

"Fanfare for the Common Man,"

conducted by Aaron Copeland and introduced by Leonard Bernstein (Y.T.)

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

Claire de Lune

(Adele)

## SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR WORSHIP

OPENING UNISON PRAYER: (written by Kelly Ann Hall)

**Bless us to bear communion, O God. To bear our own becoming— breathe through us, sculpt through us, paint through us— call us to you to explore, create and to play. Inspire our being, God, teach us how to hum Your frequency, to open up, blur the lines, expand. Do not withhold that stroke of genius, the alarming red that awakens to something greater, something more... Be with us in the chaotic mess, as we co-create our way through life alongside you, let us be shapeable, let us be mendable, let us be willing to come alive with you.**

SONG: #28

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,  
God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above, for a gentle thoughts and mild,  
God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For each good that love inspires, for the world where none exclude,  
For a faith that never tires, for every heart renewed,  
God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

## AGAPE FEAST

### GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:22-23, 30-34 (the Message)

“Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!” [...]

“If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don’t you think he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God’s giving. People who don’t know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.”

“Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.”

### CALL TO THE FEAST

#### PRAYER OF ADORATION:

**Living God, you are present in our midst and we praise you. You are tearing down walls of alienation and exclusion. For this, we praise you because, in Jesus, you have shown us a way of hospitality, simplicity, prayer, peacemaking, and resistance. Because your Spirit makes a new path for us, as we struggle to live in the shadow of doubt and fear. Weak as we are, you fill us with hope. Lover of our souls, you give us joy and we praise you. Amen.**

### SIGNS & SYMBOLS

#### SHARING THE FEAST

“Humboldt Penguins visit the Nelson-Atkins Museum” (Y.T.)

#### HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Selected Verses from Exodus 25:9-27:11 (The Message)

Let them construct a Sanctuary for me so that I can live among them. You are to construct it following the plans I’ve given you, the design for The Dwelling and the design for all its furnishings...

First let them make a Chest using acacia wood... Cover it with a veneer of pure gold inside and out and make a molding of gold all around it. Cast four gold rings and attach them to its four feet, two rings on one side and two rings on the other. Make poles from acacia wood and cover them with a veneer of gold and insert them into the rings on the sides of the Chest for carrying the Chest...Place The Testimony that I gave you in the Chest...

*continue*

Next make a Table from acacia wood...

Make a Lampstand of pure hammered gold. Make its stem and branches, cups, calyxes, and petals all of one piece...

Make The Dwelling itself from ten panels of tapestry woven from fine twisted linen, blue and purple and scarlet material, with an angel-cherubim design...

Make an Altar of acacia wood...Make horns at each of the four corners. The horns are to be of one piece with the Altar and covered with a veneer of bronze...

Make a Courtyard for The Dwelling... The hangings for the Courtyard are to be woven from fine twisted linen, with their twenty posts, twenty bronze bases, and fastening hooks and bands of silver...

SONG "All the Things You Are" (Tim and Jim)

You are the promised kiss of springtime  
That makes the lonely winter seem long  
You are the breathless hush of evening  
That trembles on the brink of a lovely song  
You are the angel glow that lights a star  
The dearest things I know are what you are  
Some day my happy arms will hold you  
And some day I'll know that moment divine  
When all the things you are, are mine.

VIDEO AND CONVERSATION ON "DESCRIBING THE INDESCRIBABLE" with René August

SONG: O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder (Emilia)

"Praise Song for the Pandemic" [from Work of the People]  
(Written and read by Christine Valters Paintner from Abbey of the Arts.)

Lord's Prayer: (Translation by Neil Douglas-Klotz in Prayers of the Cosmos)

**O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos, focus your light within us - make it useful. Create your reign of unity now-through our fiery hearts and willing hands. Help us love beyond our ideals and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures. Animate the earth within us: we then feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all. Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other. Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back from our true purpose. Out of you, the astonishing fire, returning light and sound to the cosmos. Amen.**

SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

CLOSING SONG: #4 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Joyful, joyful we adore you, God of glory, Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away,  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed.  
Well-spring of joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;  
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;  
Boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan.  
Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

CLOSING UNISON PRAYER & BENEDICTION: (written by Kelly Ann Hall)

**Bless us to bear communion, O God. To bear our own becoming— breathe through us, sculpt through us, paint through us— call us to you to explore, create and to play. Inspire our being, God, teach us how to hum Your frequency, to open up, blur the lines, expand. Do not withhold that stroke of genius, the alarming red that awakens to something greater, something more... Be with us in the chaotic mess, as we co-create our way through life alongside you, let us be shapeable, let us be mendable, let us be willing to come alive with you. *Our creativity of praise has ended—our creativity of serving one another now begins. Amen.***

POSTLUDE

Cielito Lindo

(Adele)