

Welcome to First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

June 14, 2020

OPENING MUSIC:

"First Time Hearing The Carpenters, 'We've Only Just Begun,' A Reaction" (Y.T.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Someone You Loved

(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 shapable, let us be mendable, let us be willing to come alive with you.

SONG: #44

Beautiful Jesus

Beautiful Jesus, Head of all creation,
God and the blessed Mary's child: I want to love you,
Praise and adore you, joy of my soul, so long desired.

Beautiful springtime, lovely, green, and hopeful,
All earth exhales its sweet perfume: Jesus is sweeter,
Jesus is purer, sad hearts at this, rejoice and bloom.

Beautiful sunshine, clear, so lovely, moonlight, stars shine
like angels, ranked through space: Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines clearer, in perfect beauty, love, and grace.

All earthly beauty, all celestial radiance fade when
Compared to Jesus' face. Let me not cherish beauties
that perish, let me this lovely good embrace.

AGAPE FEAST

PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 23 (the Message)

¹⁻³ God, my shepherd!
I don't need a thing.
You have bedded me down in lush meadows,
you find me quiet pools to drink from.
True to your word,
you let me catch my breath
and send me in the right direction.

⁴ Even when the way goes through
Death Valley,
I'm not afraid
when you walk at my side.
Your trusty shepherd's crook
makes me feel secure.

⁵ You serve me a six-course dinner
right in front of my enemies.
You revive my drooping head;
my cup brims with blessing.

⁶ Your beauty and love chase after me
every day of my life.
I'm back home in the house of God
for the rest of my life.

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

"Shining Eyes" with Benjamin Zander,
author of "The Art of Possibility" (Y.T.)

POEM "Blessing for Falling Into a New Layer of Grief" by Jan Richardson

SONG Lament (Tim and Jim)

POEM "Mariner" by David Whyte

SONG: There Is a Balm (EMILIA)

VIDEO AND CONVERSATION ON "AMNESIA THERAPY" with Marlon Hall (WOTP)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(You are invited unmute yourself and share your prayer of joy or sorrow and the gathered body, led by Pastor Emilia will reply "God, hear our prayer.")

PASTORAL PRAYER

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: #177

God of Change and Glory

God of change and glory, God of time and space,
When we fear the future, give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.
Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
one Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God known in many ways,
hallowing our days. For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

God of many colors, God of many signs,
You have made us different, blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear.
Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
one Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God known in many ways,
hallowing our days. For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,
You are still creating endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart.
Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
one Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God known in many ways,
hallowing our days. For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

BENEDICTION: "Birthing a New Way" Video, written by Kelly Ann Hall (WOTP)

POSTLUDE River Flows in You (Adele)

Please join us for virtual coffee hour after the Worship Service
All are invited!

