

Welcome to First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

June 28, 2020

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"AMAZING GRACE"

(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: #84

This is the Day

This is the day, this is the day.
That our God has made, that our God has made.
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that Our God has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
That our God has made.

This is the day, this is the day,
Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day the Jesus rose again,
We will rejoice and be glad in it,
This is the day, this is the day,
Jesus rose again.

This is the day, this is the day,
When the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came,
We will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day,
When the Spirit came.

AGAPE FEAST

GOSPEL LESSON(S) Parallel Scriptures (NRSV)

"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mark 8:35, NRSV)

"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 16:25, NRSV)

"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it." (Luke 9:24, NRSV)

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

"Saving a Flopped Thrown Bowl" (Y.T.)

SONG

"Golden Breaks the Dawn" (Harp & Erhu duet, YT)

"MODERN" LESSON

"OUR HEARTS SHOULD DO THIS MORE"
(Poem by Hafiz, translated by Daniel Ladinsky)

SONG:

Creator God we Sing (EMILIA)

VIDEO AND

CONVERSATION ON

"CRUCIFIED FOR ALL" with Malcom Guide

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 "Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander" (A Mystical Vision by Thomas Merton, video by the Work of the People)

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

Great is your faithfulness, O God Creator,
 With you no shadow of turning with see.
 You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
 All of your goodness forever will be.
 Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 All I have needed your hand hath provided,
 Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
 Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
 Join with all nature in manifold witness
 To your great faithfulness, mercy and love.
 Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 All I have needed your hand hath provided,
 Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
 Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
 Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
 Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
 Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 All I have needed your hand hath provided,
 Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

BENEDICTION & SENDING:

Loving God, You call us to turn away from our own selfish interests, to take up our cross, and to follow after You—to find our lives by giving them up to Your greater purpose.

As we depart from this time of worship, with open hearts and open hands, having heard your Word, and filled our hearts with Your will; Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, move within us and among us as we move in the world.

Keep our eyes Open to Your presence;

Keep our ears Open Your call;

Keep our hearts Open to one another all of your creation.

Send us back out into the world, to live and work as Your faithful disciples. Our worship is ended, our service now begins.