

Welcome to First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

August 2, 2020

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Sound of Silence (Adele)

SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR WORSHIP

RITUAL OF WELCOME FOR VIRTUAL WORSHIP (written by Rev. Molly Baskette "Emerge")

SONG: #277 Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning
we praise your majesty.
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons
Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy!
Saints adore you truly,
Casting down their golden crowns
Around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim
Bow before you only,
From the beginning,
God eternally.

Holy, holy, holy!
Though we know him dimly,
Through the eyes of humankind
Your glory may not see.
You alone are holy,
You alone are worthy,
Perfect in power,
In love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy!
God the Almighty
All your works shall praise your name
In earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons
Blessed Trinity!

AGAPE FEAST

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 14:13–21 The Voice Translation

When Jesus learned what had happened, He got on a boat and went away to spend some time in a private place. The crowds, of course, followed Jesus on foot from their cities. *Though Jesus wanted solitude*, when He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, and He healed the sick *and the lame*. At evening-time, Jesus' disciples came to Him.

Disciples: We're in a fairly remote place, and it is getting late; *the crowds will get hungry for supper*. Send them away so they have time to get back to the villages and get something to eat.

Jesus: They don't need to go back to the villages in order to eat supper. Give them something to eat here.

Disciples: *But we don't have enough food*. We only have five rounds of flatbread and two fish.

Jesus: Bring the bread and the fish to Me.

So the disciples brought Him the five rounds of flatbread and the two fish, and Jesus told the people to sit down on the grass. He took the bread and the fish, He looked up to heaven, He gave thanks, and then He broke the bread. Jesus gave the bread to the disciples, and the disciples gave the bread to the people; everyone ate and was satisfied. *When everyone had eaten*, the disciples picked up 12 baskets of *crusts and broken pieces of bread and crumbs*. There were 5,000 men there, not to mention all the women and children.

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

"Christ Be With Me" (Work of the People)

"MODERN" LESSON "Abundance" (by Amy Schmidt, in Memory of Mary Oliver)

*It's impossible to be lonely
when you're zesting an orange.
Scrape the soft rind once
and the whole room
fills with fruit.
Look around: you have
more than enough.
Always have.
You just didn't notice
until now.*

SONG: The Church of Christ, in Every Age (EMILIA)

SERMON "Jesus and the Participation Trophy" Rev. Jason Wells
Executive Director of the NH Council of Churches

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

Refrain

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe.

1. Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,
Still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,
Come and teach us your way of compassion.

Refrain

2. So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,
Longing for love to break into their anguish.
Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,
Come and teach us your way of compassion.

Refrain

3. Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,
Let us begin to grow into your people.
We can love, we can bring peace,
We can still be your way of compassion.

Refrain

BENEDICTION & SENDING

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah

(Adele)