

First Congregational Church UCC
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021

PRELUDE *You'll Never Walk Alone*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

response: God, in your love, **you hear our prayer**

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Our God leads us into places
where our hungry souls will be nourished.

**We are led, as if by a shepherd,
into places where we have the joy of filling
the emptiness of others with the same good news.**

In deeds of kindness and acts of justice and mercy,
our hands and feet can speak louder than any words.
**Thanks be to God for love that calls and sends,
and for worship that is both celebration and service.**
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

HYMN *How Can I Keep From Singing?*

SCRIPTURE

MEDITATION ON JESUS' MINISTRY OF FEEDING

***DOXOLOGY** (for the Easter season, in a soft voice)

O Jesus, risen now to bless,
do thou thyself our hearts possess,
that we may give you all our days
the willing tribute of our praise!

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

God in Christ breaks down the walls that makes us strangers to ourselves
and divide us from one another.

**We are the body of Christ. Around this table, we enact our faith.
The bread that is broken restores us to wholeness; the cup poured out
brings new life.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks and praise to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Prayer of Preparation

to live and to love, to hope and to heal, to work and to play,
and to pray always, saying...

**Our Father, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* (performed by Karen Nowariak)

SERVICE OF FAREWELL AND RELEASE

Bill Peterson, Church Council Moderator: Introduction

Beth Sagers, member of Search Committee which called Pastor Glen: On Sunday, March 5, 2017, Glen Herrington-Hall began as our pastor and teacher.

Glen: *I thank First Congregational Church, members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown Barb and I these last 4 years.*

I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted.

As we leave, we carry with us all the friendships we've made, the kindnesses we've been shown, and the joys we've known with you.

Congregation: **We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to live your ministry in new ways.**

We express our gratitude for your time among us.

Pastor, we ask your forgiveness for our mistakes.

Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Glen: *I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.*

Beth: Do you, the members and friends of First Congregational Church release Glen from his responsibilities as your pastor?

Congregation: **We do, with the help of God.**

Beth: Do you offer your encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

Congregation: **We do, with the help of God.**

Beth: Do you, Glen, release this body of Christ from turning to you and depending on you?

Glen: *I do, with the help of God.*

Beth: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

Glen: *I do, with the help of God.*

Bill: Prayer

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *May the Lord Watch Over You*

