

**First Congregational Church UCC
Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 6, 2021**

Preparing for the Word

PRELUDE *Oh, How I Love Jesus*

BRINGING IN THE CHRIST LIGHT

RINGING OF THE BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: We give you thanks, O Lord, with our whole hearts; before all we sing your praise.

All: We bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness.

One: On the day we called, you answered, you increased our strength of soul.

All: Let us give our thanks to God and begin our worship.

(based on Psalm 138)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

HYMN *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

A CONFESSION OF OUR SHARED FAITH (*unison*)

I believe in God as my Creator and as the Creator of the world, which God sets before me as a gift for my joy and tending.

I believe in Jesus. By his life and ministry he taught me how to love God and all that God created. I take the teachings and examples of Jesus as a model for my life.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, God's abiding presence in this world, to encourage and direct me to live a holy life.

I believe in the Church, the continuing presence of God revealed in Jesus, the keeper of the experiences of God in the Sacred Scriptures and in the lives of holy women and men.

I believe that all God's children, those who lived long ago, those who today are living and all those who will ever live are brothers and sisters and that the bond of God's love connects us across space and time.

Adapted: A New Creed, by Don Caron

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

First Reading (OT) Psalm 138

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

I bow down toward your holy temple

and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;

for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.

On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second Reading (NT) Mark 3:20-35

...and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you. And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

SERMON "Family"

Responding to the Word

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

The people respond:

God in your love, **hear our prayer...**"

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

Generous God, take our gifts this day and use them so that we may be part of your great work in this world. Through our giving, bring justice and love closer to all, not just in our community but in the world beyond these walls. Strengthen our church so that we grow together each day into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table *(responsive)*

God in Christ breaks down the walls that make 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 *(responsive)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

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.

Communion Prayer

Lord's Prayer *(unison)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heave. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Call to Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(responsive)*

In gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you.

Take us out, to live as changed, new people, because we have shared living bread, and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us. Expect much of us. Enable much by us.

Encourage many

through us. And may we live in faithful witness to your Holy welcome, your extravagant hospitality, your beloved community, your joy and justice, giving thanks to you, always and everywhere. Amen.

HYMN

All Creatures of our God and King

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Almighty

