



**NEWTON
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
God is still speaking,

An Open and Affirming Congregation

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

Virtual Worship • May 10, 2020 • 10:00am • Fifth Sunday of Easter

Digital Bulletin

This document is prepared so you can join our Sunday morning live-stream worship via our Facebook page (facebook.com/NewtonUCC) or call in via Zoom (Dial 312-626-6799, when prompted enter Meeting ID: 624 681 423 followed by #) or worship on your own at a time convenient for you (visit our Facebook page or website—uccnewton.org).

We are new to online and streaming worship at Congregational UCC and still working on smoothing out a few “hiccups” and technical difficulties. Of course, there is nothing that compares to being physically present with one another in worship, and yet this is what we need to do to “love our neighbors” during the current national emergency.

We apologize in advance for any problems that you may encounter in connecting to the service and welcome your feedback on how to improve the virtual worship experience over the coming weeks when we will not be able to worship in our sanctuary.

PREPARING FOR VIRTUAL WORSHIP

As you prepare to join in online worship with us, in addition to making whatever technical preparations you need to make, consider how to prepare your personal space for worship:

- Silence your phone and eliminate distractions
- Light a candle or some incense
- Open your Bible or browser to John 14:1-14
- Position your body in a posture of worship and prayer

*"Don't give in to your distress. You trust in God; trust in me as well.
In God's house there are many dwelling places."
John 14:1-2a*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE

One: As we prepare ourselves to join together in worship,
let us remind ourselves who we are
as members and friends of Congregational United Church of Christ.

**All: We are a community of God's beloved
dedicated to following the teachings of Jesus as we live our faith
by loving and serving all of God's creation
and striving for justice and peace
throughout our community, our nation, and the world.**

THE BREATH OF GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the house of God there are many dwelling places.

All: In the house of God everyone is welcome.

One: In the house of God we discover who God truly is.

All: In the house of God we discover who we truly are.

One: As we gather in our many houses, O God, abide with us and dwell within us
as we seek to abide with you and dwell within your loving presence
that you might become more fully one with us.

**All: As we gather in our many houses, O God,
surround us and fill us with your loving presence
as we open ourselves to receive your embrace
and become infused with your life-giving spirit
that we might become more fully one with you.
We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Our God's in Every Place

by Jessica Petersen

One: *Our God's in every place!*

Do you feel the Spirit?

All: *Yes, we feel the Spirit!*

One: *Do you feel the love?*

All: *Yes, we feel the love!*

One: *Do you feel our God dancing all around you?*

All: *We feel our God dance!*

*Our God is in this place, our God is in that place,
certainly our God shows up in every place.
We feel the Spirit, we feel the love, we feel God dancing all around.
Our God's in every place!*

One: *Young ones, do you feel it?*
All: ***We feel the Holy Spirit!***
One: *Older ones, how 'bout you?*
All: ***We feel the Spirit too!***
One: *Young and older unite and sing, "Glory hallelujah!"*
All: ***Glory hallelu!***

***Our God is in this place, our God is in that place,
certainly our God shows up in every place.
We together unite and sing, "Glory Hallelujah!"
Our God's in every place!***

***Our God is in this place, our God is in that place,
certainly our God shows up in every place.
We've been called to pray and sing and worship all together.
Our God's in every place!
I said, our God's in every place!
Surely, our God's in every place!
We know our God's in every place!***

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION

(You are invited to open yourself to the presence and action of God within you during a time of silent contemplative prayer. We will close this time of prayer with the following spoken prayer.)

One: Just as Jesus is one with you and you are one with Jesus
so too do we desire to be one with you, O God.

All: **Move within us, O Holy One, that your ways may become our ways,
that your thoughts may become our thoughts,
that your actions may become our actions.**

**Empower and inspire us to create with you a world beyond our imagining –
a world overflowing with love, justice, and peace.
In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

One: The peace of God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN

Lead Us from Death to Life
***Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth,
from de-spair 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 u-ni-verse.***

World Peace Prayer

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE

John 14:1-14

GLORIA PATRI

Greatorex

*Glo-ry to the Cre-a-tor, the Christ, the Ho-ly Spir-it, Three-in-One;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ever shall be,
world with-out end. A-men. A-men.*

SERMON

Where God Lives

Rev. Jessica Petersen

PAUSE

(What did you hear yourself saying as you were listening to the presentation of the scripture and the sermon? How is God speaking to you today?)

HYMN 654

Here Am I

Here Am I

*Here am I, where un-der-neath the brid-ges
of our win-ter cit-ies home-less peo-ple sleep.*

*Here am I, where in de-cay-ing hous-es
lit-tle chil-dren shiv-er, cry-ing in the cold.*

Where are you?

*Here am I, with peo-ple in the line-up,
anx-ious for a hand-out, ach-ing for a job.*

*Here am I, when pen-sion-ers and strik-ers
sing and march to-geth-er, want-ing some-thing new.*

Where are you?

*Here am I, where two or three are gath-ered,
read-y to be al-tered, shar-ing wine and bread.*

*Here am I, where those who hear the preach-ing
change their way of liv-ing, find the way to life.*

Where are you?

LITANY FOR MOTHERING

One: To those who became new mothers this year

All: we celebrate with you.

One: To those who lost a child

All: we mourn with you.

One: To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day
and wear the badge of food stains

All: we appreciate you.

One: To those who experienced loss through miscarriage,
failed adoptions, or running away

All: we mourn with you.

One: To those who walk the hard path of infertility,
fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment

All: we walk with you.

One: To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms

All: we are grateful for you.

One: To those who have warm and close relationships with your children

All: we celebrate with you.

One: To those who have disappointment, heart ache,
or tension with your children
All: we are here for you.

One: To those who lost their mothers this year
All: we grieve with you.

One: To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother
All: we acknowledge your experience and your pain.

One: To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests,
and the overall testing of motherhood
All: we are better for having you in our midst.

One: To those who long to be mothering your own children
**All: we lament that life has not turned out
the way you longed for it to be.**

One: To those who step-parent
All: we walk with you on these complex paths.

One: To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren—
yet that dream is not to be,
All: we grieve with you.

One: To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year
All: we grieve and rejoice with you.

One: And to those who are pregnant with new life
All: we anticipate with you.

One: This Mother’s Day, we walk with you in all the ways
that mothering takes place in this world.
**All: In the joyful and celebratory times
and in times of sorrow and grief,
may you be surrounded in our love and in the love of God
who is Mother to us all. Amen.**

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (**Other options for “Father” include “Mother,” “Creator,” “Parent.”*)
**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.
 Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

***Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow,
 praise God all crea-tures here be-low. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 Praise God for all that love has done,
 Cre-a-tor, Christ, and Spir-it, One. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 655

Community of Christ

Leoni

*Com-mu-ni-ty of Christ who makes the cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life for God a-lone:
the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be-long,
whose chil-dren are of ev-ery race and ev-ery song.*

*Com-mu-ni-ty of Christ, look past the church-'s door
and see the ref-u-gee, the hun-gry, and the poor.
Take hands with the op-pressed, the job-less in your street,
take towel and wa-ter, that you wash your neigh-bor's feet.*

*Com-mu-ni-ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
cry out for jus-tice and for peace the whole world round:
dis-arm the powers that war and all that can de-story,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of an-guish in-to joy.*

*When men-ace melts a-way, so shall God's will be done,
the cli-mate of the world be peace and Christ its sun;
our cur-ren-cy be love and kind-li-ness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one for ev-er-more.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Resource:

Today's "Litany for Mothering" is adapted from a litany by Amy Young (messymiddle.com).

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