



**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 • July 19, 2020 • 10:00am
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

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: 890 9706 1745 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 “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 Isaiah 44:6-8
- Position your body in a posture of worship and prayer

"I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God."

Isaiah 44:6b

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: As we continue to experience physical displacement and emotional disruption
from the COVID-19 pandemic,

All: we remember God is the first and the last, the rock that shall not be moved.

One: As we continue to experience physical displacement and emotional disruption
from systemic racism,

All: we remember God is the first and the last, the rock that shall not be moved.

One: As we continue to experience physical displacement and emotional disruption
from political polarization,

All: we remember God is the first and the last, the rock that shall not be moved.

One: As we continue to experience physical displacement and emotional disruption
from the violence abroad, in our streets, on our southern border,

All: we remember God is the first and the last, the rock that shall not be moved.

One: As we continue to experience physical displacement and emotional disruption
from climate change,

All: we remember God is the first and the last, the rock that shall not be moved.

One: O God, the first and the last, our beginning and our end,
our rock that shall never be moved, remind us who you are
as we struggle through this time of exile, this time of uncertainty, this time of hurt.

**All: Reminded of your ever-abiding presence,
assured of your constant protection,
may we go forward without fear
doing our part to establish the justice and peace
which you envision and for which your world longs.
In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.**

***A might-y for-tress is our God, our strong and sure pro-tec-tion;
Our God, who loves us, has re-solved to free us from sub-jec-tion.
With bold Sa-tan-ic pride and ha-tred well sup-plied,
the dead-ly force of sin has sworn to do us in.
Mere hu-man strength will per-ish.***

***These hu-man hands, for all their skill, can-not shape our sal-va-tion.
We need a cham-pion, one who will a-chieve our lib-er-a-tion.
Who is there, good and brave, with strength and will to save
our weak and fear-ful race? Who will our cause em-brace?
God's on-ly Child, Christ, Je-sus!***

***When e-vil pow-ers rage and swear and threat-en mass de-struc-tion,
when we are tempt-ed to de-spair, to yield to their se-duc-tion—
Then may we stand as-sured by God's most ho-ly Word,
the e-vil one shall fail, God's righ-teous-ness pre-vail:
then why should we be fear-ful?***

***God's ev-er-last-ing Word a-bides, our strong and sure sal-va-tion.
The Spir-it here and now pro-vides rich gifts and con-so-la-tion.
Let wealth and fam-ily go, this bod-y be brought low.
What-ev-er loss we bear God will at last re-pair.
God's realm is ours for-ev-er.***

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION

- One: O God, you answered the cries of your people
as they suffered under slavery and oppression under Pharaoh.
- All: Forgive our forgetfulness, and remind us who you are
that we might see more fully your vision of justice, love, and care
for the poor, the stranger, the sick, and the least of these.**
- One: O God, your prophets of old called unjust rulers to account
when they neglected and exploited the widow, the orphan, and the foreigner.
- All: Forgive our forgetfulness, and remind us who you are
that we might see more fully your vision of justice, love, and care
for the poor, the stranger, the sick, and the least of these.**
- One: O God, you made yourself known to us through the life of Jesus
as he welcomed "sinners" and touched the "unclean"
offering them healing, hope, and a place to call home.
- All: Forgive our forgetfulness, and remind us who you are
that we might see more fully your vision of justice, love, and care
for the poor, the stranger, the sick, and the least of these.**
- One: O God, you empower and inspire teachers and preachers,
prophets and activists today
who challenge our systems of oppression, exploitation, and violence
as they work faithfully for racial justice, economic justice,
environmental justice, and peace.

All: O God, remind us who you are
that we may not only see more fully your vision of justice, love, and care
for the poor, the stranger, the sick, and the least of these,
but also be reminded who we are as your people
and be moved by the power of your loving Spirit
to engage more fully in the faithful work,
both within ourselves and out in the world,
of making your vision a reality here and now. May it be so! Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

One: The peace of God be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN

The Spirit in Me

by Jim Strathdee

***The Spir-it in me greets the Spir-it in you. A-le-lu-ia!
God's in us, and we're in God. A-le-lu-ia!***

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 44:6-8

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

Remembering Who God Is

Rev. Jessica Petersen

PAUSE

HYMN 71

Your Love, O God

Vicar

***Your love, O God, is broad like beach and mead-ow,
wide as the wind, and our e-ter-nal home.
You leave us free to seek you or re-ject you,
you give us room to an-swer "yes" or "no."

We long for free-dom where our tru-est be-ing
is giv-en hope and cour-age to un-fold.
We seek in free-dom space and scope for dream-ing,
and look for ground where trees and plants can grow.

But there are walls that keep us all di-vid-ed;
we fence each oth-er in with hate and war.
Fear is the bricks and mor-tar of our pris-on,
our pride of self, the pris-on coat we wear.***

***O judge us, God, and in your judgment free us,
and set our feet in freedom's open space;
take us as far as your compassion wanders
among the children of the human race.***

STRIKE FOR BLACK LIVES—JULY 20 (from <https://j20strikeforblacklives.org/demands/>)

July 20 is a day of reckoning. Across the country, workers will rise up to strike for Black lives. Together, we will withhold our most valuable asset — our labor — in support of dismantling racism and white supremacy to bring about fundamental changes in our society, economy and workplaces. Join us in walking out for justice.

This is a moment to transform our economy and democracy but until we dismantle racism and white supremacy, we cannot win economic, climate or immigration justice. On July 20, workers demand:

- 1) Justice for Black communities, with an unequivocal declaration that Black Lives Matter, is a necessary first step to winning justice for all workers. To win higher wages, better jobs, and Unions for All, we must ensure that Black workers can build economic power. To win Healthcare for All, we must address disparities in accessibility and quality of care. Action on climate change must center communities of color. Immigrant communities stand in solidarity with Black workers to build power together. Education, housing, and criminal justice reform must start by listening to Black workers and leaders. We will support and align with Black-led organizations and their demands.
- 2) Elected officials and candidates at every level use their executive, legislative, and regulatory authority to begin to rewrite the rules and reimagine our economy and democracy so that Black communities can thrive. They must ensure fair and safe voting in-person and by mail so everyone can fully participate in our democracy. As we continue to address the COVID-19 pandemic, we must protect the health and safety of all workers, returning people to work and into public spaces with a rational, safe, well-managed plan designed with workers and community stakeholders.
- 3) Corporations take immediate action to dismantle racism, white supremacy, and economic exploitation wherever it exists, including in our workplaces. This includes corporations raising wages, allowing workers to form unions, providing healthcare, sick leave and expanded healthcare coverage to people who are uninsured or have lost coverage as the result of losing their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic, child care support and more, to disrupt the multigenerational cycle of poverty created by their anti-worker attacks. Workers must have ample personal protective equipment (PPE) and have a voice in the plan to create safe workplaces during and after the pandemic.
- 4) Every worker has the opportunity to form a union, no matter where they work. Every worker in America must have the freedom that comes from economic security and equity in opportunity. We demand the immediate implementation of a \$15/hour minimum wage, fully-funded healthcare coverage and paid sick leave for all.

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

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (*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.**

CLOSING HYMN 537

My Hope Is Built

Solid Rock

*My hope is built on noth-ing less that Je-sus' love and righ-teous-ness;
I dare not trust this earth-ly frame, but whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.
On Christ, the sol-id Rock, I stand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand
all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.*

*When shad-ows veil my Sav-ior's face, I rest up-on un-chang-ing grace;
In ev-ery high and strom-y gale, my an-chor holds with-in the veil.
On Christ, the sol-id Rock, I stand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand,
all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.*

*Christ's oath and cov-e-nant and blood sup-port me in the ris-ing flood;
When all a-round my soul gives way, Christ then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the sol-id Rock, I stand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand,
all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.*

*When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in Love be found,
Dressed in God's righ-teous-ness a-lone, fault-less to stand be-fore the throne.
On Christ, the sol-id Rock, I stand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand,
all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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