



**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 • June 21, 2020 • 10:00am  
Third 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](https://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](https://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 Genesis 21:8-21
- Position your body in a posture of worship and prayer

*Sarah demanded of Abraham, "Send Hagar and her child away!  
I will not have this child of my attendant share in Isaac's inheritance."  
Genesis 21:10*

## 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: Our God has called us to gather across time and place as this community of faith.

**All: Our God has called us to be in relationship with one another.**

One: Loving Spirit, we come seeking to deepen our relationship with you  
and to learn how to most fully and faithfully  
live in relationship with one another and all of your creation.

**All: Reveal to us your love,  
through which you relate to each member of creation,  
inspiring, encouraging, and challenging us  
to share that love as we build and live in healthy relationship  
with one another and with you.  
We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN 485

*Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race*

Tallis' Canon

***Di-verse in cul-ture, na-tion, race, we come to-geth-er by your grace.  
God let us be a meet-ing ground where hope and heal-ing love are found.***

***God, let us be a bridge of care con-nect-ing peo-ple ev-'ry-where.  
Help us con-front all fear and hate and lust for pow'r that sep-a-rate.***

***When cha-sms wid-en, storms a-rise, O Ho-ly Spir-it, make us wise.  
Let our re-solve, like steel, be strong to stand with those who suf-fer wrong.***

***God, let us be a ta-ble spread with gifts of love and bro-ken bread,  
where all find wel-come, grace at-tends, and en-e-mies a-rise as friends.***

## CALL TO PRAYER

## PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION

One: We hear in our sacred texts, O God,  
of harm that family members inflict upon each other.  
Hagar and Ishmael were cut out of their community, their household,  
and thrown out into the wilderness.

This story of broken relationship is distressing.

Yet, we know all too well that this is more than a story.

**All: We confess to you, Loving Spirit, that there are family and friends  
we have cast out of our own lives and left behind in the wilderness.  
We acknowledge them before you, O God, and hold them in our hearts.**

*(silent prayer and reflection)*

One: We also know that in times of crisis, such as COVID-19,  
some communities are cut off from resources they need for survival—  
work, food, healthcare.

Yet, we know all too well that even before this pandemic,

people of color, poor people, LGBTQ people,

elderly people, and people with disabilities were cut off from basic resources.

**All: We confess to you, Loving Spirit, that all too often  
we fail to look beyond the boundaries of our own communities.  
We acknowledge before you, O God, those who are suffering  
because they are cut off from what they need and hold them in our hearts.**

*(silent prayer and reflection)*

One: Show us, O God who sees, how to reach out and build bridges  
to promote the healing of our broken relationships.

**All: Open our ears, O God who hears,  
that we may hear the cries of those who are ailing  
and respond with compassionate action  
creating boundless, borderless communities of care.  
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

*Genesis 21:8-21*

### 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.***

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 506

*Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill*

Healer

**Refrain:**

***Heal-er of our ev-'ry ill, light of each to-mor-row,  
give us peace be-yond our fear, and hope be-yond our sor-row.***

***You who know our fears and sad-ness,  
grace us with your peace and glad-ness.  
Spir-it of all com-fort, fill our hearts.***

**Refrain**

***In the pain and joy be-hold-ing  
how your grace is still un-fold-ing,  
give us all your vis-ion, God of love.***

**Refrain**

***Give us strength to love each oth-er,  
ev-'ry sister, ev-'ry brother.  
Spir-it of all kind-ness, be our guide.***

**Refrain**

***You who know each thought and feel-ing,  
teach us all your way of heal-ing.  
Spir-it of com-pas-sion, fill each heart.***

**Refrain**

LITANY FOR FATHERING

One: To those who became new fathers 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 dads, mentor dads, and spiritual dads

**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 fathers this year

**All: we grieve with you.**

One: To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own father

**All: we acknowledge your experience and your pain.**

One: To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests,  
and the overall testing of fatherhood

**All: we are better for having you in our midst.**

One: To those who long to be fathering 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 expecting to welcome new life

**All: we anticipate with you.**

One: This Father's Day, we walk with you in all the ways  
that fathering 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 Father to us all. Amen.**

**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.**

**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 429 (TNCH)

*God, Bless Our Homes*

Charterhouse

*God, bless our homes with peace and love and laugh-ter,  
with un-der-stand-ing and with loy-al-ty.  
May we to-geth-er fol-low Christ our Sav-ior  
and know the bless-ing of com-mu-ni-ty.*

*May ev-ery heart re-ceive God's lov-ing spir-it  
and know the truth that makes life tru-ly free;  
then, in that spir-it may we live u-nit-ed,  
and find in God our deep se-cu-ri-ty.*

*For-give the hurts our self-ish-ness in-flict-ed  
on those we love and those who love us best.  
Christ, heal the scars, and draw us all to-geth-er  
in God whose will is peace and joy and rest.*

*O God, in grat-i-tude for homes and loved ones,  
we o-pen now our hearts to hu-man-kind.  
Grant us your spir-it—love for all our neigh-bors—  
so in your peace may we our con-cord find.*

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

### Resources:

Today's "Prayer for Transformation and Reconciliation" is inspired by and borrows language from "Growing in the Wilderness: Prayers for the Third Sunday of Pentecost" by Rev. Elsa A. Cook (© 2020 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.)

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

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