



**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 26, 2020 • 10:00am  
Eighth 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: 890 9706 1745 followed by #) or worship on your own at a time convenient for you (visit our Facebook page or website—[uccnewton.org](http://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 as we continue to 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 1 Kings 3:4-15
- Position your body in a posture of worship and prayer

*“Give me, your servant, a discerning heart, so that I may distinguish good from evil  
and govern your people with wisdom.”*

1 Kings 3:9

## 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 (from *Proverbs 9:1-6*)

One: Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven pillars.

**All: She has prepared her food, decanted her wine, and set her table.**

One: She has sent out her household staff to call from a spot overlooking the city.

**All: “Whoever wants enlightenment, step this way!” she says,  
inviting all who lack common sense.**

One: “Come, eat my bread and drink the wine which I have prepared for you.

**All: “Abandon your foolishness that you may live  
and walk in the path of understanding!”**

One: We hear your voice calling to us, O God, bidding us to come be filled  
with your wisdom, with your truth;  
urging us to leave behind the foolishness and the folly of this world  
that disguises itself as wisdom and the one true way.

**All: We are here, Great Wellspring of Wisdom, to be fed, to be filled  
that your wisdom might guide  
our thinking, our speaking, our doing, and our being.  
Fill us with your wisdom, O God, that we might live more fully in your way.  
We pray in the name of Jesus,  
who shows us how to live in your wise way. Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN 258

*Holy Wisdom*

*Salve Regina Coelitum*

*Who comes from God as Word and Breath? Ho-ly Wis-dom.  
Who holds the keys of life and death? Might-y Wis-dom.  
Craft-er and Cre-a-tor too, El-dest, she makes all things new;  
Wis-dom guides what God will do,  
Wis-est One, Ra-diant One, wel-come, Ho-ly Wis-dom.*

*Who lifts her voice for all to hear? Joy-ful Wis-dom.  
Who shapes a thought and makes it clear? Truth-ful Wis-dom.  
Teach-er draw-ing out our best, mag-ni-fies what we in-vest,  
Names our truth, di-rects our quest,  
Wis-est One, Ra-diant One, wel-come, Ho-ly Wis-dom.*

*Whom should we seek with all our heart? Lov-ing Wis-dom.  
Who, once re-vealed, will not de-part? Faith-ful Wis-dom.  
Part-ner, Coun-se-lor, Com-for-ter, love has found none love-li-er,  
life is glad-ness lived with her,  
Wis-est One, Ra-diant One, wel-come, Ho-ly Wis-dom.*

#### **PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION**

One: Holy One, we have followed the current conventional wisdom of this world, and what a disastrous, destructive mess we have made! We have wholeheartedly believed and proclaimed that the wealthy deserve their wealth and the poor deserve their poverty. We have promoted the lie of scarcity— that there is simply not enough to go around— as we’ve hoarded resources for ourselves and our “in” groups shouting with our words and actions, “God helps those who help themselves!” We have been distracted and preoccupied with our individual and communal desire for wealth.

**All: Jesus teaches of the foolishness of storing up material treasures; he insists that folly and wealth, not wisdom and wealth, go together; he reminds us that we cannot serve both you and wealth.**

One: Jesus teaches us that true security, true safety, true fulfillment comes from centering ourselves in you.

**All: Free us from our bondage to conventional wisdom that hurts and harms and guide us on the narrow path that Jesus walked. Return us to our rightful center in you empowering us and inspiring us to live out your compassion and strive for your justice. 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**

*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**

*1 Kings 3:4-15*

**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**

*Wisdom and Wealth*

Rev. Jessica Petersen

**PAUSE**

**HYMN 586**

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

Open My Eyes

*O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth though hast for me;  
place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and set me free.*

*Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.*

*O-pen my eyes, il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!*

*O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou send-est clear;  
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, ev-ery-thing false will dis-ap-pear.*

*Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.*

*O-pen my ears, il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!*

*O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth ev-ery-where;  
o-pen my heart and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren thus to share.*

*Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.*

*O-pen my heart, il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!*

**LITANY FOR WHEN WE START TO FORGET**

by Mary Luti

One: In God's presence

**All: I remember you**

One: I remember you old people dead in nursing homes and solitary apartments

**All: I remember you**

One: Middle-aged men with underlying conditions, working one day, dead the next

**All: I remember you**

One: Little ones dead of strange syndromes

**All: I remember you**

One: Black people and brown people dead in unthinkable numbers

**All: I remember you**

One: Nurses and orderlies, doctors and EMTs, dead for serving and tending

**All: I remember you**

One: Cleaners and meat packers, bus drivers, cashiers, and delivery people dead  
because you were just working—you had to work

**All: I remember you**

One: Prisoners, migrants, and people living on the streets dead for not having any say in it

**All: I remember you**

One: Parents dead, siblings dead, cousins dead, friends dead, spouses dead,  
grandparents dead, neighbors dead, famous people dead, not famous people dead

**All: I remember you**

One: People I know, my own dear dead

**All: I remember you**

One: With reverence and lament

**All: I remember you**

One: In hope and love

**All: I remember you**

One: In God's presence

**All: I remember you. 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

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 344

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus  
I have de-cid-ed to fol-low Jesus,  
I have de-cid-ed to fol-low Jesus,  
I have de-cid-ed to fol-low Jesus—  
no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.*

Assam

*The world be-hind me, the cross be-fore me,  
the world be-hind me, the cross be-fore me,  
the world be-hind me, the cross be-fore me—  
no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.*

*Though none go with me, I still will fol-low,  
though none go with me, I still will fol-low,  
though none go with me, I still will fol-low—  
no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.*

*Will you de-cide now to fol-low Je-sus?  
Will you de-cide now to fol-low Je-sus?  
Will you de-cide now to fol-low Je-sus?—  
No turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**Resource:**

Today's "Litany for When We Start to Forget" was written by Mary Luti and is found in [Emerge: Blessings & Rituals for Unsheltering](#) by The Stillspeaking Writers' Group (© 2020 United Church of Christ).

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