



**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 14, 2020 • 10:00am
Second 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: 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 Romans 5:1-8
- Position your body in a posture of worship and prayer

*We know that affliction produces perseverance;
and perseverance, proven character; and character, hope.*
Romans 5:3b-4

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 join together this day in worship, O God,
the virus of racism continues to ravage this nation.

All: We come seeking your guidance and your grace.

One: As we join together this day in worship, O God,
the novel coronavirus continues to spread, to stifle our breath, to take our lives.

All: We come seeking your guidance and your grace.

One: As we join together this day in worship, O God,
the climate continues to change, the ice caps to melt,
and natural disasters to grow unnatural in their intensity.

All: We come seeking your guidance and your grace.

One: As we join together this day in worship, O God, your world, your people are hurting.

**All: We open ourselves to your life-giving presence, O God.
Touch us, touch your world with your healing grace
and guide us to engage in your compassionate, transformative action
that our mourning, the world's mourning may turn into dancing.
In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.**

OPENING HYMN 538 v. 1-2, 4-5 *Hope of the World*

Vicar

*Hope of the world, O Christ of great com-pas-sion:
speak to our fear-ful hearts by con-flict rent;
save us, your peo-ple, from con-sum-ing pas-sion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.*

*Hope of the world, God's gift from high-est hea-ven,
bring-ing to hun-gry souls the bread of life:
still let your Spir-it un-to us be giv-en
to heal earth's wounds and end its bit-ter strife.*

*Hope of the world, who by your cross did save us
from death and sad de-spair, from sin and guilt:
we ren-der back the love your mer-cy gave us;
take now our lives and use them as you will.*

*Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic-to-rious,
who by this sign did con-quer grief and pain:
we would be faith-ful to your gos-pel glo-rious;
you are our Christ and you for-ev-er reign!*

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION

One: We long, Emmanuel, to gather physically as this community of faith.

**All: May we also long to live more faithfully as your church
sharing more broadly, more widely, more deeply your unbounded, life-giving love.**

One: We desire, Loving Spirit, to return to work.

**All: May we also desire safe working conditions, living wages,
and compassionate benefits for each and every worker.**

One: We ache, Colorful Creator, to breathe freely once more in the presence of others.

**All: May we also ache for a world in which our black and brown siblings
no longer have their breath cut off under the suffocating knee of racism.**

One: We dream, Vision Caster, we dream of the day when we can leave our homes
without the fear of contracting or spreading this deadly virus.

**All: May we also dream of a future when our children's children's children
still have a habitable earth to call home.**

One: We grow impatient, Transforming One, to get back to "normal."

All: May we also grow impatient for your justice to be realized.

One: Transform this moment of hardship, O Holy One, into a movement for justice.

**All: Transform our afflictions into perseverance, our perseverance into character,
our character into hope—hope for justice, hope for peace, hope for joy.
May our hope fuel our action to realize your just world here and now. 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

Romans 5:1-8

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

From Affliction, Hope

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 583

Lead Me, Guide Me

Lead Me Guide Me

*Lead me, guide me, a-long the way, for if you lead me, I can-not stray.
God, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O God, lead me.*

LITANY FOR FASTING AND FOCUS (unison)

We see the violence of injustice.

**We see the violence of racism against black people, Latinos,
First Nations and people of color.**

We know this violence is a threat to all humanity and this yet-to-be perfect union.

We hear the cries of the poor and low wealth in a land of abundance.

We hear the fear of death among the uninsured and underinsured.

We hear the groans of ecological devastation and environmental violence.

We feel the violence of militarism all around.

**And we mourn the untold thousands who die every year from poverty,
the lack of healthcare and pollution.**

These things suffocate the life out of this democracy.

We join the struggle of those hurting.

**And we commit every breath to work, march, fight, vote, and organize
in order to breathe life into the promise of the establishment of justice,
provision for the common defense,
promotion of the general welfare,
and the insurance of domestic tranquility and equal protection under the law.**

**As the ancient prophets call us to fast from oppression,
we know that to fast means to stop.**

**We call on the nation to stop all forms of systemic racism, from racist police violence to
voter suppression to policies that place the weight of injustice on the collective necks of
people of color.**

We call on the nation to fast from militarized police.

**We call on the nation to stop denying healthcare, decent housing, voting rights, equitable
education, and the chance to survive and thrive.**

**We call on the nation to stop the perpetuation of poverty and low income,
to stop blocking living wages, paid sick leave.**

We call on the nation to stop destroying the environment.

We call on the nation to save communities.

Hear the call of God:

Is this not the fast we choose:
to loose the chains of bondage?

Is this not the fast we choose:
to let the oppressed go free,
to meet the needs of everyone,
to forgive debts, raise wages, and promote the general welfare?

Because we are yet alive and breathing, yet free to stand up,
we commit ourselves to this work with every breath we have.
With every breath we have, we make this declaration to fast from apathy.

Everybody has a right to live.

With every breath we have, we declare:
Somebody's hurting our brothers, our sisters, our siblings.
It's gone on far too long, and we won't be silent anymore.

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 631

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift Every Voice

*Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav-en ring,
ring with the har-mo-nies of lib-er-ty;
let our re-joic-ing rise high as the lis-tening skies,
let it re-sound loud as the roll-ing sea.*

*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the pres-ent has brought us;
fac-ing the ris-ing sun of our new day be-gun,
let us march on till vic-to-ry is won.*

*Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod,
felt in the days when hope un-born had died;
yet with a stead-y beat, have not our wea-ry feet
come to the place for which our peo-ple sighed?*

*We have come o-ver a way that with tears has been wa-tered;
we have come, tread-ing our path thru the blood of the slaugh-tered,
out from the gloom-y past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.*

*God of our wea-ry years, God of our si-lent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us in-to the light,
keep us for-ev-er in the path, we pray.*

*Lest our feet stray from the pla-ces, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for-get thee;
shad-owed be-neath thy hand, may we for-ev-er stand,
true to our God, true to our na-tive land.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Resource:

Today's "Litany for Fasting and Focus" is from the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival and was shared as a part of the Moral Monday National Day of Fasting and Focus on June 8, 2020 (retrieved from <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/litany-for-moral-monday-national-day-of-fasting-and-focus>).

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