

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**August 22, 2021**

Ministry of the Acolyte

Gathering Music #349 “O How He Loves You and Me”

Oh, how he loves you and me, Oh, how He loves you and me.  
He gave His life, what more could He give;  
Oh, how He loves you, Oh, how He loves me, Oh, how He loves you and me.  
Jesus to Calv’ry did go, his love for sinners to show.  
What He did there, brought hope from despair.  
Oh, how He loves you, Oh, how He loves me, Oh, how He loves you and me.

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer

*Mary Menzies*

Prelude

Responsive Reading: Psalm 34:15-22

One: Your eyes, O God, are on the righteous;  
your ears are open to their cry.

**All: Your face is turned against evildoers,  
You cut off their remembrance from the earth.**

One: When the righteous cry for help, you hear them;  
you rescue them from all their troubles.

**All: You are near to the brokenhearted;  
you save the crushed in spirit.**

One: The righteous have many afflictions;  
you rescue them from them all.

**All: You guard the bones of your beloved;  
not one of them will be broken.**

One: Evil brings death to the wicked;  
those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

**All: With deep, deep love, you rescue your servants.  
No one who takes refuge in you will ever be condemned.**

Hymn #352 “O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!  
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!  
Underneath me, all around me is the current of Thy love,  
Leading onward, leading homeward to my glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Spread His praise from shore to shore,  
How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore;  
How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of ev'ry love the best:  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee.

We Lift Up Our Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

Special Music

We Dedicate our Gifts  
\*Doxology and Offering prayer

Scripture Ephesians 6:10-20

Hymn #408 "How Firm a Foundation"

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

Sermon "in the Spirit, at all times, pray, pray, pray"

Hymn #410

“Standing on the Promises”

vs. 1-3

Standing on the promises of Christ, my King,  
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God, my Savior;  
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail.  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

Standing on the promises, I now can see  
Perfect present cleansing in the blood for me;  
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,  
Standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

Benediction

Response #410

“Standing on the Promises”

vs. 4, 5

Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord,  
Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,  
Standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,  
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
Standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

Postlude

*Scriptures for next Sunday:*  
*Song of Solomon 2:8-13 and Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9;*  
*Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 and Psalm 15;*  
*James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.*