

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

June 6, 2021

Those who are able may stand where marked (*).

Gathering #138 “Holy Ground”

We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now;
We are standing in His presence on holy ground.

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer *Emily LaFlam*

Prelude

Responsive Reading Psalm 130

One: Out of the depths I cry to you.

O God, hear the sound of my voice!

All: Open your ears and attend to me, God.

O listen to my supplications!

One: If you kept account of our failings, our sins,
which of us could stand in your presence?

**All: But there is forgiveness with you, O God,
that you may be honored and praised.**

One: I wait for my God; my soul longs for God
more than those who watch for the morning.

**All: My hope is in God; my soul longs for God
more than those who watch for the morning.**

One: In God there is mercy and steadfast love;
there is power to redeem us from our sins.

**All: Out of the depths we cry to you, God,
with grateful hearts. Hear us, we pray.**

*Hymn #575 “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

***Confession: Kind and generous God, we have heard your promise to be with us always, but it's hard sometimes to believe you. Our world is daily wounded by crime and war. Our feelings of safety rise and fall with the market. In anger and sorrow, suspicion and fear, we close our hearts to you and our neighbors; and still you offer us forgiveness; and still you offer us your everlasting arms. And so, kind and generous God, as we come to this holy meal, we ask you to open our darkened hearts to receive the light you have prepared for us. In Jesus' name. AMEN**

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri #813

Statement of Faith:

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:

**You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil,**

To share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

**You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.
Amen.

Moments of Concern and Celebration
Pastoral Prayer
Our Savior's Prayer (trespasses)

Special Music

Worship of God with our Tithes and Offerings
*Doxology #815 and Offertory Prayer

Scripture Mark 3:20-35

Sermon "contradictions"

*Hymn #320 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Prayer: **You have given yourself to us, loving God, in the simple food and drink we have shared. Jesus has been here. Even now, his presence is strengthening us to be his Body. God, give us courage; make us whole and give us peace. Fill us with Holy Spirit and send us out to touch the world with your healing Presence; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Friend. Amen.**

*Benediction

Response: #237 “Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound:
may the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound:
ever faithful, ever faithful
to the truth may we be found.

*Readings for next week: 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13 and Psalm 20;
Ezekiel 17:22-24 and Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15;
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17;
Mark 4:26-34.*