

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
June 27, 2021

Ministry of the Acolyte

Gathering Music #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 and Announcements

*Mary Menzies*

Opening Prayer

Prelude

Responsive Reading    Lamentations 3:22-33

One: Your steadfast love never ceases, O God;  
your mercies never come to an end.

**All: They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness!**

One: You are my portion; I will put my hope in you.  
You are good to those who wait for you;

**All: you are kind to the soul who seeks you.  
It is good for us to wait quietly for your salvation—**

One: to bear the yoke of discipline in youth,  
to sit alone in silence when you have imposed it,

**All: to bow before you, mouth to the dust  
(there may yet be hope),  
to give our cheek to the smiter, to bear with insults.**

One: You will not reject us forever, O God.  
Though you bring us to grief,  
yet you will have compassion  
out of the abundance of your steadfast love.

**All: For it is not your will that anyone should be  
afflicted or abandoned to grieving.**

\*Hymn: #139            “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,  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
Refrain

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

Special Music

We Dedicate our Gifts  
Doxology  
Offering prayer

Hymn #435 "God of Grace and God of Glory"  
God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy pow'r.  
Crown thine ancient church's story, bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be  
armored with all Christlike graces, in the fight to set men free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, that we fail not man nor thee,  
that we fail not man nor thee!

Scripture                      Mark 5:21-43

Sermon                      “generous gifts, extravagant love”

Hymn #648              “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.  
Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast.  
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be.  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive.  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore they temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; true and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

Benediction

Response #713              “Seek Ye First”

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness;  
And all these things shall be added unto you. Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find.  
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Postlude