

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

July 18, 2021

Ministry of the Acolyte

Gathering Music #179 "Our God Is an Awesome God"

Our God is an awesome God; He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power, and love. Our God is an awesome God.

Welcome and Announcements

Mary Menzies

Opening Prayer

Prelude

Responsive Reading Jeremiah 23:1-4

One: And God said: Woe to the shepherds
who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!

**All: This is what God, our God, has to say
to the shepherds who shepherd our people:**

One: You have scattered my flock; you have driven them away;
you have not attended to them.

**All: So I will attend to you for what you have done,
says God, our God to the shepherds.**

One: I myself will gather the remnant of my flock
out of all the places where they have been driven,
and I myself will bring them back to their fold,
and they shall be fruitful and multiply.

**All: I will raise up shepherds over them
who will care for them as true shepherds.**

One: They shall not fear any longer,
or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing.

**All: My shepherds shall lead my people
in paths of justice and righteousness
to the everlasting honor of the Holy One, our God.**

*Hymn: #682 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more.
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, Strong Deliverer, be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Bear me through the swelling current; land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee.
I will ever give to Thee.

Special Music

We Dedicate our Gifts

*Doxology

Offering prayer

Scripture

Ephesians 2:11-22

*Hymn

“My Shepherd Is the Living God”

My Shepherd is the living God, I therefore nothing need;
in pastures fair, near pleasant streams you settle me to feed.
You bring my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake your ways,
and lead me for your mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay;
a word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may your house be mine abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others come and go—
no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

Sermon

“by our love”

*Hymn #429

“They’ll Know We Are Christians”

vs. 1-3

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

*Benediction

*Response #429 “They’ll Know We Are Christians”

vs. 4

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. And they'll know we are
Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Postlude

*Scriptures for Sunday, July 25: 2 Samuel 11:1-15;
Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21;
John 6:1-21.*

