

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**August 15, 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 Calvary 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

Prelude

Responsive Reading

**Sing: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.**

One: I will give thanks to you with all my heart,  
here in the congregation.

**All: Great are your works, O Holy One, our God,  
studied by all who delight in them.**

One: Honor and majesty fill all your works,  
and your righteousness endures forever.

**All: Your wonderful deeds have brought you renown;  
you are gracious and merciful.**

**Sing: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.**

One: You feed those who fear you, never forgetting  
your covenant with your chosen people

**All: The works of your hands are faithful and just;  
all your words of your law are trustworthy.**

One: Holy and awesome is your name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

**All: all those who practice it have understanding.  
Your praise endures forever.**

**Sing: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.**

Hymn #548

“As the Deer”

As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after Thee.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee

You alone are my strength, my shield; to You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee

You're my friend and You are my brother, even though You are a King.  
I love You more than any other, so much more than anything.

You alone are my strength, my shield; to You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee.

I want You more than gold or silver, only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy giver, and the apple of my eye.

You alone are my strength, my shield; to You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee

We Welcome a New Member: Eric Trafford

**We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

Prayer of Welcome and Sung Blessing

**Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.**

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

Proverbs 9:1-6

\*Hymn #562

“Be Thou My Vision”

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art—  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my Wisdom and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son,  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Sermon "beginners"

\*Hymn #661 "Little Is Much When God Is in It"

In the harvest field now ripened, there's a work for all to do.  
Hark! the Master's voice is calling, to the harvest calling you.

Little is much when God is in it! Labor not for wealth or fame.  
There's a crown, and you can win it, if you go in Jesus' name.

Does the place you're called to labor seem so small and little known?  
It is great if a God is in it, for He'll not forsake His own.

Little is much when God is in it! Labor not for wealth or fame.  
There's a crown, and you can win it if you go in Jesus' name.

When the conflict here has ended and our race on earth is run,  
He will say, if you've been faithful, "Welcome home, My child—well done!"

Little is much when God is in it! Labor not for wealth or fame.  
There's a crown, and you can win it, if you go in Jesus' name.

\*Benediction

\*Response #575 "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" *vs. 2*

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
Oh, 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.

Postlude

*Scriptures for next Sunday: 1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84;  
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22;  
Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69.*