

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

September 5, 2021

Ministry of the Acolyte

Gathering Music #209

“This Is the Day”

This is the day (This is the day)
That the Lord has made (that the Lord has made)
We will rejoice (We will rejoice)
And be glad in it (and be glad in it)
This is the day that the Lord has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day (This is the day)
That the Lord has made.

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer *Ross Fairweather*

Prelude

Responsive Reading

Psalm 90:1-7, 12

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

All: You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

One: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

All: You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

One: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

All So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Hymn #686

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

God yet speaks by His Spirit
Speaking to the hearts again,
In the age-less Word expounding
God's own message, now as then;
Thro' the rise and fall of nations
One sure faith yet standing fast,
God is a-bides, His Word unchanging,
God the first, and God the last.

Sermon “The Parable of the Talents, Revisited”

*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!

*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.

Postlude

Welcome Rev. Jay Sprout to the pulpit this week.

*Scriptures for Sunday, September 12: Isaiah 50:4-9a;
Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38*