

An Order of Service for Virtual Worship

The Congregational Church of Naugatuck

9 Division Street

Naugatuck, CT 06770

Sunday, October 25th, 2020

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost: Proper XXV

Beloved of God, welcome to our virtual worship experience as a gathered community of Christ. Until we meet again, a bulletin of this nature will be coming your way in our weekly emails, and it will also be posted on our public Facebook page.

(Please “like” us if you haven’t already!)

The gift of this format is that worship time can happen at any time! This format is following in the footsteps of Jesus, who accompanies us along our journey, wherever we may be. The church will always be here. We invite you to take your time as you read, listen, sing, watch. And breathe, thereby inviting the holy presence of God into your space, and into your heart.

And now, we begin...

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jill E. Olds

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 119)

Pastor: God word is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

People: **God’s faithfulness continues through all generations; God established the earth, and it endures.**

Pastor: God’s hands have fashioned and made us,

People: **...and God has given us understanding so that we might learn God’s commandments.**

Pastor: Despite all that has happened, or will happen...

People: **...God’s promise to us remains strong, and faithful.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship our God with gratitude and with love!

MUSIC

Mr. Sean Lewis

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Holy God, Creator of us all, the Scriptures tell us that you not only know every bird in the air, every cloud in the sky, every flower that has ever been... but you also know us just as intimately. There is not a word we say, not a thought we think, that you do not know completely. You tend to us in every facet of our

being. For such tender attention, we thank you. Holy One, help us to embed this truth within our very souls: that we are known, known very, very well. And that we are loved, loved wholly and completely, without condition. May we live our lives fully aware of this truth. It is in Your Name we pray, Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mrs. Cindy Tolin

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Mr. Rick Dufresne

SERMON: "Coming Down from the Mountaintop"

Rev. Jill E. Olds

MUSIC

Mr. Sean Lewis

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (*debts*)

If you would like to have a prayer request added for next week's service, please email Rev. Jill at pastor@congonaug.org.

OFFERTORY

While our building might be closed in this time, the work of the church continues. In some ways, it's busier than ever. Throughout this season of uncertainty, we remain committed to supporting our staff, our church programs, and our outreach in the Naugatuck community. As an entirely self-funded organization, this means that we need your help!

There are a few ways you can help us continue in this work:

-The "Give" tab on our website (<https://www.congonaug.org/give>) offers opportunities to donate by Venmo and ACH. Please consider doing this in lieu of loose plate offerings. If you need further assistance with ACH (the automatic withdrawal system), please email Nancy Dugbartey at ndugbartey@sbcglobal.net.

-We are also still receiving mail at this time, and we will happily receive your checks, made payable to "The Congregational Church of Naugatuck."

OFFERTORY MUSIC

BENEDICTION

Rev. Jill E. Olds

POSTLUDE

Our worship has ended; our service continues. Go in peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ALL SAINTS' DAY!!

In the past, our All Saints' Day worship service tradition has included a reading of the names of loved ones who have died (this year, and any other year), which is then accompanied by the ringing of the church bell.

We are hoping to continue this tradition, and we need your help.

We are asking you to record yourself saying your loved ones' names; the videos will only be a few seconds. Please send the videos to Sean (pianomanlewey@gmail.com), with the subject line "All Saints," and we will make sure they become a meaningful part of the service. We will need to have all videos by Wednesday, October 28th.

Thank you!

CHURCH FAIR UPDATE

The church fair has, regretfully, been cancelled for this year. But we are still hoping for your help. Please see your e-newsletter for the full update. Thank you!

CHURCH E-NEWSLETTER

If you would like to sign up to receive our church's e-newsletter, please text CONGONAUG to the number 22828, and follow the prompts.

UPDATE ON REGATHERING IN PERSON

Please see Rev. Jill's letter from last month's e-newsletter. If you did not receive the update, please email Olivia at administrator@congonaug.org.

PRAYER IN THE PARKING LOT, SUNDAYS AT 9AM

We have delighted in gathering for a short prayer service on Sunday mornings at 9am. We have now moved indoors, and are continuing to be mindful of masks and physical distancing. Come join us!

DONATE MONEY FOR CAKE MIXES!

Thank you to those of you who have already done so—we are well on our way, with 200 cake mix boxes already purchased for the Ecumenical Food Bank! We are hoping to get up to 300, and we will continue to provide desserts with any additional funds we collect. Checks can be made out to the Congregational Church of Naugatuck, with "cake mixes" in the memo line; they can be sent either to the church, or to Carol Delagrange. Thank you!

FALL ADULT FAITH FORMATION NIGHT ON TUESDAYS AT 7:30PM!

Please join us for an adult faith formation opportunity every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm, facilitated by Rev. Jill. This year's theme will be "Digging Deep into the Self," from the perspective of four very different books.

A bit about each book is included below. The hope is that folks will choose to opt into one of the studies, or to all of them! Whatever speaks most strongly to you! In offering these selections, unilateral agreement with the authors is not always a given, but we do promise to have engaging discussions throughout the year. Please join us!

Schedule:

- September 1st-November 17th: *I'm Still Here*, by Austin Channing Brown
- December 1st-January 12th: *All I Really Want: Readings for a Modern Christmas*, by Quinn Caldwell
- January 19th-May 11th: *The Universal Christ*, by Richard Rohr
- May 18th-June 22nd: *Rising Strong*, by Brené Brown

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88049714994>

Overview of the Books:

I'm Still Here, by Austin Channing Brown, is a memoir written by a black woman who grew up in a predominantly white, middle-class neighborhood. She shares her story in a very engaging and relatable way, and relates it to her experiences of the Church.

All I Really Want is a Christmas devotional written by fellow UCC minister (and Still Speaking contributor) Quinn Caldwell. This book is an easy read, only two pages for every day... but its nuggets of wisdom for Christmastime are quite rich.

The third book for this year will be *The Universal Christ*. Richard Rohr is a Roman Catholic priest who founded the Center for Action and Contemplation. He believes that, when we are at our best, the way we live in this world stems from deep thought. This is the most theologically dense read of the year, as he invites us to explore who Jesus Christ really is for us today.

Brené Brown is our final author for the year. She is a sociologist who has amassed years of research that focuses on human vulnerability. As we explore her book *Rising Strong*, we will follow our year's theme of digging into the self by looking at the trait of resilience, and how we rise again from difficult circumstances.

Please join us for one or all of the book discussions! Scholarships for the books are available, if needed. Please contact Rev. Jill for details.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like Rev. Jill to add you to the weekly spoken prayers, please email her at pastor@congonaug.org, and she will include them in next week's offerings. Please keep in mind that the video of this service will be posted publicly, so we ask that you seek permission when sharing prayer requests about others.

NEW ORDER TO COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Please note that the order for our 7pm Monday evening Committee Meetings has changed. Here is the new order:

First Monday of the month- Deacons
Second Monday of the month- WCF (on hiatus for the summer)
Third Monday of the month- Business (on hiatus for July)
Fourth Monday of the month- Council

Please check your emails for the links to the meetings!