

THE FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL - MILFORD, CT



January 17, 2021—10:00 AM Online Worship

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

The First United Church of Christ, Congregational, Milford, CT

PRELUDE

Still Overcoming

arr. Brownell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Adam E. Eckhart
Senior Pastor

GREETING OUR NEIGHBORS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Samuel! Miriam! Elijah! Isaiah! Micah!

People: Martin! Rosa! Howard! Fannie Lou! Ruby!

Leader: Mary! Peter! Andrew! Priscilla! Phoebe! Paul!

People: Jennifer! Tom! Jamie! Sue! Bill! Shawn! Michel(I)e!

All: God has called us by name and calls us to serve and worship God together!

OPENING HYMN

God is Here! As We Your People Meet (vs. 1&4)

NCH 70

God is here! As we your people met to offer praise and prayer,

May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Sovereign God, of earth and heaven, in an age of change and doubt

Keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out.

Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lily

Holy One, you have called us by name. You will not let us lounge in bed.

You wake us up in the middle of the night to remember your claim on us.

You will not let us hide under the tree.

You summon us from the shade to be changed and to bring change in the world.

You will not let us bury our secrets within the earth.

You unearth our fears and speak them aloud.

Forgive us, O God, when we cannot speak.

Reveal the words we need most.

In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kelsey DeCarlo, Faith Formation Minister

OFFERING

Invitation

Doxology
Prayer of Dedication

First Church Virtual Choir

O God, you offer us wonderful gifts. May we respond to your call through these gifts we bring and actions we take. In our offerings, may we shape the future of our church's ministries to reflect your divine love, as Christ Jesus showed us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 3:1-10

SERMON

'You Talkin' to Me?'

Rev. Suzanne Wagner

HYMN

***Take My Life and Let It Be* (vs. 1&4)**

PH 404

Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my love: my Lord I pour At thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for thee. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

***Lift Every Voice and Sing* (vs. 1-3)**

NCH 593

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty:
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lift Every Voice



Elements of this liturgy were written by the Rev. Elsa A. Cook, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, a budding spiritual director and wandering interim minister. She writes liturgies and shares her thoughts on cookingwithelsa.org.

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WELCOME TODAY'S PREACHER: REV. SUZANNE WAGNER

We welcome into the pulpit this morning the Reverend Suzanne E. Wagner, who joined First Church Milford as a member in 2018. Rev. Wagner was ordained into Christian Ministry in the United Church of Christ in 2002 after earning her Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Center, MA and earlier, her Bachelor of Fine Arts from William Woods University in Fulton, MO.

Rev. Wagner ended a six-year ministry at Orange Congregational Church in Orange, Connecticut as Senior Redevelopment Pastor after serving three other area UCC churches. She was a part time chaplain at Veteran's Affairs Hospital in West Haven. In addition, Rev. Wagner lived in Jerusalem for a year in 2007-08. She currently is on the Conference Ministerial Aid Committee, the New Haven Association Committee on Ministry, and has become an Annuitant Visitor in the UCC Pension Board Annuitant Visitor Program.

Reverend Wagner resides in Milford and she has three children, John, Daniel and Christine, all married, one grandson, two granddaughters! In her free time she likes to watercolor natural science and botanical subjects.

Thank you, Rev. Wagner, for sharing the Word with us!

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