

# THE FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL - MILFORD, CT



**Sunday, May 16, 2021 - 10:00 AM Online Worship**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter; Mental Health Sunday**  
**The First United Church of Christ, Congregational, Milford, CT**

PRELUDE

**Hommage a Messiaen (L'Ascension)**

arr. and performed Daniel A. Brownell, Minister of Music and Organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Adam Eckhart, Senior Pastor

GREETING OUR NEIGHBORS

Jen Brothers

CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Haas

One: We come with our brokenness, as individuals and collectively.

**All: We come to unite as the Body in Christ.**

One: We come to find peace and sing songs of love.

**All: We come to find healing and to be refreshed by the Spirit.**

One: Come, let us worship.

OPENING HYMN

***Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*** (vs. 1 & 3)

NCH 43

with Debi Mastroni-Kenyon, voice

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,  
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;  
Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.  
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore your temples leave.  
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,  
Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Ward Willis

One: Life-giving God, your love and light guides us on the path of courage, compassion, generosity, and grace. Lead us as we seek to follow your transformative love that turns sorrow into joy, and despair into hope. O God, help us embrace your guiding love that calls us to live as your faithful witnesses, who reflect your grace and redemptive love.

**All: God, open hearts to receive your gracious love, and strengthen us to carry the Good News of your healing power found in the light, love and life of Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray, saying...**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kelsey DeCarlo, Minister of Faith Formation

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

Invitation  
Doxology  
Prayer of Dedication

**Dear God, we offer our generous gifts as a sign of our gratitude for creating us to care for one another. We pray your blessings upon these gifts, and hope they serve as our love for you and the world. Redeeming God, we ask that these gracious offerings be a witness to your healing and faithful love in order to bring hope to a hurting world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 17:6-19

SERMON

**Christian Faith & Mental Health**

Rev. Adam E. Eckhart

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. M. Ashley Grant, Associate Pastor

Thanksgiving for mental health care  
Intercessions

CLOSING HYMN

***There Is a Balm in Gilead*** (vs. 1 & 2)

NCH 553

with Debi Mastroni-Kenyon, voice

*Refrain:*

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,  
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

*Refrain*

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,  
who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend.

*Refrain*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

***Aria from Goldberg Variations***

J.S. Bach

Daniel Brownell, piano

Service prayers for the Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year B, was written by the Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey Guillaume, pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ in West Palm Beach.



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To sign up for the E-herald, our weekly update, email Nicole Moore at [info@firstchurchofmilford.org](mailto:info@firstchurchofmilford.org)