

*Call to Worship

One: We come today, representing all the majesty of creation
Many: **Diverse and beautiful, blessed and beloved,
all made in the image of the Creator of all things.**

One: We come today, called to this time and this place by an infinite God
Many: **Who hears our cries and responds with love and mercy.**

One: We come today, Transgender, Asexual, Nonbinary, Bisexual, Pansexual, Lesbian, Intersex, Gay, Queer, Ally
Many: **We come today, knowing you will listen and answer our needs.**

One: We come today, knowing you care for us.
Many: **We come today, knowing that even when others reject us,
your arms are open to offer comfort. We come.**

*Hymn

God Speaks Today

In our yearning, joy, and wonder, God speaks today.
In the care we show each other, God speaks today.
As we tend each friend and neighbor, work for justice, welcome strangers, seek to shield the poor from danger, God speaks today.

In the hope that keeps us burning, God speaks today.
In the lessons we are learning, God speaks today.
As we heal and make confession, nurture peace, reject aggression, share our prayers and share possessions, God speaks today.

In the beauty all surrounding, God speaks today.
In the love that keeps astounding, God speaks today.
As we live the invitation to restore each soul and nation, as we strive to heal creation, God speaks today.

Prayer of Yearning

As we kindle the fire of change, we pray that the flames of God's inclusive love set fire to the world. We pray that no envy and malice, no hatred or fear, may smother these flames. May the spark of God's love light the love in our hearts, that they may burn brightly through the day. May the flames of love warm those who are lonely, those who feel rejected, those who feel cast out because of who they are or who they love. May these flames, flames of radical love, flames of the Open and Affirming movement, guide them here, guide them home into the arms of love.

Assurance of Grace

Hymn of Praise

Blessing the Child in All of Us

Halle-Halle-Hallelujah!

Prayer of Listening

Scripture
Sermon

Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Reflecting God's Pride

Prayers of the People

Our Lord's Prayer (unison)

Sung Response

Come and Fill

*Come and fill our hearts with your Peace, you alone O Lord are Holy
Come and fill our hearts with your Peace, Alleluia*

Offertory

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Blessing Our Offerings**

Our Commission (unison)

*Go out into the world in peace, be of good courage,
hold fast to that which is good, render to no one evil for evil,
strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak,
help the afflicted, honor all people, love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Benediction & Blessing of the Pride Parade

Hymn Sing

Postlude

*Please rise in body and/or spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † Robin is out of the office **June 24th to July 5th**.
- † **Wednesday Fellowship Luncheon** is on **June 29th**. Please sign-up in Webster Hall if you would like to provide food to share or if you need a ride.
- † **Support Group for Trans Family and Friends** starts **June 30th** at 6 pm at Second Cong. Church. Nora Parsons and Julie Oakes will facilitate.
- † **Sunday Supper today** at 4:30 pm.

If you have announcements for the bulletin, please email them to office@bennscc.org by Thursday morning at 10am. Thanks.

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Welcome to Second Congregational Church! We are an Open and Affirming, Green Justice Congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome to our worship and to our membership all people of faith, or in search of faith, without regard to age, race, gender, economic condition, ability, sexual identity, gender identity, or citizenship; and we affirm all persons beloved children of God. We invite all to share in the worship, full life, leadership, and employment opportunities of the church.

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Prayer of Yearning from vermont racial justice alliance and Vermont Interfaith Action

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SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, U.C.C.

BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Sunday June 26, 2022

Open & Affirming Sunday

Rev. D. Mark Blank, Pastor

Matt Edwards, Music Director



Flowers provided by : Norma McShane

Announcements

Prelude

Welcome and Introductions

One: Whoever you are, or wherever you are on life's journey,
All: **You are welcome here!**