

## \*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** *Halle-Halle-Hallelujah!*

## Blessing the Child in All of Us

## Prayer of Listening

**Scripture** **Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

**Sermon** *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 24<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>**.
- ✝ **Wednesday Fellowship Luncheon** is on **June 29<sup>th</sup>**. 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 30<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:office@bennscc.org) by Thursday morning at 10am. Thanks.*



**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.**

Call to Worship and from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022*. Copyright © 2021 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Prayer of Listening by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes, [unfoldinglight.net](http://unfoldinglight.net). Used by permission of the author.

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

*God Speaks Today* – Text © 2022 Amanda Udis-Kessler. All rights reserved. Tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos Email: [amanda@amandaudiskessler.com](mailto:amanda@amandaudiskessler.com) New hymns: [queersacredmusic.com](http://queersacredmusic.com) Permission is given for free use of this hymn.

## **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!**