

Moosup Valley Congregational Christian Church UCC
ORDER OF WORSHIP
June 28, 2020 ~ 10:30 A.M.
Readers as Noted

PRELUDE

MEDITATION: Christians don't simply learn or study or use Scripture; we assimilate it, take it into our lives in such a way that it gets metabolized into acts of love, cups of cold water, missions into all the world, healing and evangelism and justice in Jesus' name, hands raised in adoration of the Father, feet washed in company with the Son. *-Eugene Peterson.*

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE *(Tina Lavallee)*

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Rev. Betsy/Laila Bennett)*

Pastor: The Holy Spirit has given us life and pours on us the power to become new people!

People: The winds of the Spirit have given us breath and the fire of the Spirit has enkindled in us a love for God and each other.

Pastor: Come here in faithfulness, and be ready for the surprises that God's Spirit brings.

People: We open our lives to the presence of God and trust God's promise to us that we can live new lives of freedom and grace. May God help us to be true people of spirit, letting holy surprises fill our days! *-Sandra E. Graham*

OPENING PRAYER *(Laila)*

Beloved God, in this hour we call upon your presence among us. We ask you to touch our hearts so that we may leave this place transformed and prepared to enter our respective communities as agents of change, of light and of hope. In Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

HYMN: "How Beautiful Our Spacious Skies" *(Martha will play; we will mute and sing.*

How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain;

Our purple mountains as they rise above the fruitful plain.

America! America! God's gracious gifts abound,

And more and more we're grateful for life's bounty all around.

Indigenous and immigrant, our daughters and our sons:

**O may we never rest content till all are truly one.
America! America! God grant that we may be
A sisterhood and brotherhood from sea to shining sea.**

**How beautiful, sincere lament, the wisdom born of tears,
The courage called for to repent the bloodshed through the years.
America! America! God grant that we may be
a nation blessed with none oppressed, true land of liberty.**

**How beautiful, two continents, and islands in the sea
That dream of peace, nonviolence, all people living free.
America! America! God grant that we may be
A hemisphere where people here all live in harmony.**

CONFESSION (*Joan Lacerta*)

Ever-loving, ever-living God, you have given us life itself and have asked us to be life-giving people in your name. But we, in turn, have cared more about ourselves and our comfort than about your people in every place. There are people in our very presence who are left out of our thoughts and prayers, because our minds and hearts are too crowded with all the things that will make us feel self-satisfied. The world aches for peace, while we proclaim power to be more important. People in our community go hungry because we make sure that we are full before even thinking about them. God, give us the purpose that you gave to people of Jesus' time: to be faithful disciples in your care. Through Christ we pray. Amen. -Sandra E. Graham

Pastor: God's grace is sufficient for all. That which we regret is redeemed and we are given the courage to live new lives. Thanks be to God. -Maren C. Tirabassi

SUNG RESPONSE (*Laila*)

**America! America! God grant that we may be
A hemisphere where people here all live in harmony.**

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:40-42 (*Cheryl Hawes*)

'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

RESPONSE: For the Word of God in scripture,

**For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us,
Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION: “A Cup of Cold Water”

HYMN: “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

And we pray that our unity will one day be restored

Chorus: And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side

We will work with each other, we will work side by side

And we’ll guard each man’s dignity and save each man’s pride

Chorus

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand

And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land;

Chorus

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;

And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.

And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.

Chorus

JOYS & CONCERNS (*God, in your love, hear our prayer.*)

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,

the people of God from this dwelling take leave.

**The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's realm and to answer the call.**

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION (*Rev. Betsy/Laila*)

Pastor: Go in peace. Celebrate the wonders of creation, and know that God is with us.

People: We listen to the songs of the waves and the hymns of the trees.

Pastor: Touch the earth with love and respect.

People: May God bless us and hold us gently as we seek to do God's work in the world. Our service has ended. Our service begins. Amen.

Instructions for Communion Sunday, July 5th

VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP HOUR