

Moosup Valley Congregational Christian Church UCC
ORDER OF WORSHIP
June 21, 2020 ~ 10:30 A.M.
Father's Day
Readers: Pat Safstrom & Others as Noted

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (Pastor/Reader)

Pastor: You were not made for a day set aside, but the day of rest was made for you.

People: We choose to gather on this our holy day to worship, to pray, to share with one another.

Pastor: Jesus asked, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to harm, to save life or to kill?"

People: We choose compassion and justice and healing. On our day of rest and worship we choose life. –*Maren C. Tirabassi*

OPENING PRAYER

O holy God, we know the beauty of this June day and we are grateful. We experience the warm stirring of summer and the fullness of bountiful earth, and we are grateful. We share the love of family and friends and the family and friendship that is our church, and we are grateful. Through the grace of Christ Jesus, we know the opportunity to bring new selves to this new day that we might worship with our community in joy and thanksgiving and be filled with the good news we would offer everyone. For all these things we are deeply grateful. Amen. –*Maren C. Tirabassi*

HYMN: "For the Beauty of the Earth" #66 (*Martha will play and we will sing along while muted.*)

**For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

CONFESSION

O Thou, whose very name is Love, we mean to do well, but our intentions are soon discarded. We try to be faithful, but we are diverted by so many things. We do not wish to harm anyone, but, without thinking, we sometimes hurt those we love the most. We sympathize with those who suffer more often than we act with them. We refuse to accept the help of others because we are unwilling to admit our needs. We, too, can say with the man who came to you, “Lord Jesus, I am not worthy that you should enter my house; only say the word and I shall be healed!” -Allen P. Happe

Pastor: God shapes our lives in gentle hands. We are forgiven and given responsibility again—for the beautiful earth and all aspects of human love. Amen. –*Maren C. Tirabassi*

SUNG RESPONSE: God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise. (Lee)

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:34-39 (Carl)

³⁴ ‘Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

REFLECTION: “Stepping Out in Faith”

HYMN: “O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder” #35 (1 verse)

O Lord, my God! when I in awesome wonder

**Consider all the worlds thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
The power throughout the universe displayed,
Then sings my soul, my savior God to thee
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my savior God to thee
How great thou art, how great thou art!**

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

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS FOR FATHER'S DAY

VOICE ONE (*Laila*): Loving God, whom Jesus called Abba, daddy, we come to you as your children this day, with love, with sorrow for the times we have not loved as we should, with many requests for your loving, fathering presence in our lives and in our world. Thank you for being there, for listening, for holding us with gentle power when we are weak, for pushing us to be the best we can be. God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

VOICE TWO (*Lee*): Thank you for our earthly fathers today. Thank you for their care, their support, their nurture, and their love. Help us to forgive the mistakes they have made and let the past be past. Help them, likewise, to forgive the mistakes we have made that have hurt them. For we know that being a father is challenging work. God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

VOICE THREE (*Laurie*): Bless all fathers today. Strengthen those who deal with difficult or handicapped children, those who are single fathers trying to be both mother and father to their children, those whose children are estranged from them. God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

VOICE FOUR (*Priscilla*): Bless those who desperately want to be fathers and are having difficulty, those whose partners are pregnant, those in the adoption process. Give wisdom to those who are foster fathers, godfathers, grandfathers, uncles, and others who are acting as father to children. Bless all the men of this congregation as they fulfill their baptismal promises to be godfathers to all the children of this church. God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

VOICE FIVE (*Cheryl*): Soften the hearts of fathers who abuse, either children or the children's mothers. Give courage to fathers who find themselves in the midst of war, as soldiers, as beleaguered civilians, as refugees. Be with those fathers who are unemployed or underemployed and lack the resources they need to support their families. Be especially with those whose desperation tempts them to desert their families, that they might think again and stay. God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

VOICE SIX (*Joan*): Bless all married couples, those with or without children, that they might be strengthened in love and commitment to one another. And help our society, both government and private enterprise, to do what needs to be done to support families of whatever configuration to nurture and care for one another. God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

VOICE SEVEN (*Betsy*): Hear us now as we pray for our own fathers, marriages, and families in the silence of the morning. [*silence . . .*] In Jesus' name, let all the people say, **Amen.**

THE 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.

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.**

BENEDICTION

May God bless you and keep you,
and may God bless you and give you away to others.
May God's face shine upon you,

and your face reflect an irresistible good news.
May God lift up
everything that is fallen in you,
and give you more pieces of peace
than you alone can hold. Amen. (MCT)

VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP HOUR