

Moosup Valley Congregational Christian Church UCC
ORDER OF WORSHIP
July 5, 2020 ~ 10:30 A.M.
Independence Day Service
Readers as Assigned

MEDITATION: “The world is an exceedingly complex, chaotic place and an even more perilous place if we choose to ignore the fall of a sparrow in Haiti or the fluttering of a butterfly’s wings in Egypt.” - *Dr. Stanley M. Aronson*

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE (*Laila Bennett*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: For the Beauty of your Creation,

All: We praise you, O God. (*Carl*)

One: For your loving kindness,

All: We praise you, O God. (*Pat*)

One: For the freedom with which you created us,

All: We praise you, O God. (*Cheryl*)

One: For the native inhabitants of this land, the original landlords,

All: We praise you, O God. (*Priscilla*)

One: For this nation, a nation of immigrants,

All: We praise you, O God. (*Tracey*)

One: For each nation and nationality represented here,

All: We praise you, O God. (*Joan*)

One: For the opportunity to praise and adore you,

All: We praise you and give you thanks, O God, today and forever. (*Carl*)

—*Arelis M. Figueroa*

INVOCATION (*Carl Safstrom*)

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: “My Country ‘tis of Thee”

My country, ' tis of thee,

sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing:

land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride,

From every mountainside let freedom ring!

*My native country, thee,
land of the noble free, thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills;
my heart with rapture thrills, like that above.*

*Let music swell the breeze,
and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song;
let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake;
let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.*

*Our father's God to thee,
Author of liberty, to Thee we sing,
long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light,
protect us by thy might, great God, our King!*

UNISON CONFESSION (Pastor/Carl)

Pastor: The roots of freedom were planted in this soil by our Pilgrim forebears who believed that Jesus means freedom. That conviction did not always save them from fear and prejudice, nor does it always save us. But it can be where we start and start again. Jesus demands of us the courage to love those whom we naturally fear. Let us pray.

People: O God, we have not always been equal to the task. We have relied on superior force and dire threats, when love alone has the power to turn an enemy into a friend and secure our safety. Forgive us, we pray in Jesus name. Amen.

Pause for silent confession....

Pastor: Do not fear—the lust of nations shall be overcome by the love of God, and you shall be love's courier. The narrowness of your love shall be broken open by the breath of God's kindness toward you. Nor will God allow the sins of your past to keep you from the task God has for you, for in all things the ultimate victory belongs to Christ, and he has overcome the world. —David Slater

SUNG RESPONSE: "Take My Life, God, Let It Be"

*Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.*

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

(Carl) 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

(Pat) "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn."

(Carl) For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

(Cheryl) At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

(Carl) ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

RESPONSE: **For the Word of God in scripture, (Pat)**
 For the Word of God within us, (Joan)
 For the Word of God among us, (Tracey)
 Thanks be to God. (Cheryl)

REFLECTION: “For My Yoke Is Easy?”

HYMN: “This Is My Song”

*This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

*My countries skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.*

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Priscilla Rotondo)

**Because the broken bread has meant our healing,
because the outpoured cup has meant our life,
because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls,
and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks**

**and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ.
Amen. –David Beebe**

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

RINGING OF THE SINGING BOWL

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER (*Barbara Cederfield*)

**We pray all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to say when we pray,
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.**

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

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.** (*Laila*)

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.** (*Carl*)

SUNG BENEDICTION: “Sent Forth”

*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.*

**VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP &
ANNOUNCEMENTS**