



**NEWTON  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**  
God is still speaking,

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

**Virtual Worship • May 3, 2020 • 10:00am • Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Digital Bulletin**

This document is prepared so you can join our Sunday morning live-stream worship via our Facebook page ([facebook.com/NewtonUCC](https://facebook.com/NewtonUCC)) or call in via Zoom (Dial 312-626-6799, when prompted enter Meeting ID: 624 681 423 followed by #) or worship on your own at a time convenient for you (visit our Facebook page or website—[uccnewton.org](http://uccnewton.org)).

We are new to online and streaming worship at Congregational UCC and still working on smoothing out a few “hiccups” and technical difficulties. Of course, there is nothing that compares to being physically present with one another in worship, and yet this is what we need to do to “love our neighbors” during the current national emergency.

We apologize in advance for any problems that you may encounter in connecting to the service and welcome your feedback on how to improve the virtual worship experience over the coming weeks when we will not be able to worship in our sanctuary.

**PREPARING FOR VIRTUAL WORSHIP**

As you prepare to join in online worship with us, in addition to making whatever technical preparations you need to make, consider how to prepare your personal space for worship:

- Prepare a piece of bread or a cracker and a small glass of grape juice or wine (if you do not have these items on hand, you may use any “nibble” and “sip” that is convenient for you)
- Silence your phone and eliminate distractions
- Light a candle or some incense
- Open your Bible or browser to John 10:1-10
- Position your body in a posture of worship and prayer

*"The thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy.  
I came that you might have life and have it to the full."  
John 10:10*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE

One: As we prepare ourselves to join together in worship,  
let us remind ourselves who we are  
as members and friends of Congregational United Church of Christ.

**All: We are a community of God's beloved  
dedicated to following the teachings of Jesus as we live our faith  
by loving and serving all of God's creation  
and striving for justice and peace  
throughout our community, our nation, and the world.**

### THE BREATH OF GOD

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (from *Psalms 23*)

One: You, O God, are the door  
through which we come in and receive protection.

**All: You, O Holy One, are the gate  
through which we go out and find green pastures of plenty.**

One: You, Loving Spirit, are our shepherd; therefore, we shall never want.

**All: You make us lie down in green pastures;  
you lead us beside still waters; you restore our souls.**

One: You lead us in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.  
Even though we walk through the darkest valley, we fear no evil;

**All: for you are with us;  
your rod and your staff – they comfort us.**

One: You prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies;  
you anoint us with the oil of salvation, and our cup overflows.

**All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives,  
and we will dwell in your house forever and ever.**

One: Open our hearts and minds this day, O God,  
that we might experience the safety, security, and sustenance  
that come only from you.

**All: Empower us to go forth proclaiming and living your way  
that all might experience your salvation.  
We pray in Jesus's name. Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN 80

*My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*

Resignation

*My Shep-herd, you sup-ply my need; most ho-ly is your name;  
in pas-tures fresh you make me feed, be-side the liv-ing stream.  
You bring my wand-'ring spir-it back, when I for-sake your ways;  
you lead me, for your mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.*

*When through the shades of death I walk, your pres-ence is my stay;  
one word of your sup-port-ing breath drives all my fears a-way.  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;  
my cup with bless-ings o-ver-flows, your oil a-noints my head.*

*Your sure pro-vi-sions, gra-cious God, at-tend me all my days;  
O may your house be my a-bode, and all my work be praise.  
Here would I find a set-tled rest, while oth-ers go and come;  
no more a stran-ger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.*

## CALL TO PRAYER

### PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION

One: Holy One, you provide everything we could possibly need.  
Indeed, you provide such an abundance  
that each member of your creation need not want.  
Yet far too often we don't trust in this abundance and in your protection.  
Afraid for our safety and security,

**All: we build up walls and separate ourselves from one another.**

One: Afraid that we won't have enough resources  
for ourselves and the ones dear to us,

**All: we gather and store up much more than we need  
leaving others without enough to survive.**

One: Open our eyes, our hearts, and our minds, O God, to the truth

**All: that safety and security are provided through the building of relationships,  
through seeking to understand another's perspective  
and respecting their experience as we also share our own.**

One: Open our eyes, our hearts, and our minds, O God, to the reality

**All: of the abundance you provide  
that all might have their needs met  
and none will go away hungry or thirsting.**

One: We turn away from our fear, Most Loving One,

**All: and place our trust in you and the ultimate power of your love.  
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

### SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

One: The peace of God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

### HYMN

*Lead Us from Death to Life*

World Peace Prayer

*Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth,  
from de-spair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;  
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,  
let peace fill our u-ni-verse.*

## A TIME WITH CHILDREN

**SCRIPTURE**

*John 10:1-10*

**GLORIA PATRI**

Greatorex

***Glo-ry to the Cre-a-tor, the Christ, the Ho-ly Spir-it, Three-in-One;  
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ever shall be,  
world with-out end. A-men. A-men.***

**SERMON**

*The Voice of the Shepherd*

Rev. Jessica Petersen

**PAUSE**

*(What did you hear yourself saying as you were listening to the presentation of the scripture and the sermon? How is God speaking to you today?)*

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION**

*As the Grains of Wheat*

Marty Haugen

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

One: *The Lord be with you.*

All: ***And al-so with you.***

One: *Lift up your hearts.*

All: ***We lift them to the Lord.***

One: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

All: ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

One: *It is our duty and delight  
that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God,  
through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection  
broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation,  
and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

All: ***Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly are you,  
God of pow-er and might;  
Heav-en and earth are filled with your glo-ry.  
Ho-san-na in the high-est!  
Bless-ed is the One who comes in your name.  
Ho-san-na in the high-est,  
ho-san-na in the high-est!***

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND CHORAL ACCLAMATIONS**

One: You are indeed holy, gracious and merciful God,...  
We pray for his coming again, even as we cry:

*A-men. Come, Lord Je-sus. A-men. Come, Lord Je-sus.*

All: ***A-men. Come, Lord Je-sus. A-men. Come, Lord Je-sus.***

One: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,...  
when you will make all things new:

*A-men. Come, Ho-ly Spir-it. A-men. Come, Ho-ly Spir-it.*

All: ***A-men. Come, Ho-ly Spir-it. A-men. Come, Ho-ly Spir-it.***

One: This we pray through Jesus Christ, our savior and our friend.

All: *Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the u-ni-ty of the Spir-it, all glo-ry and hon-or is yours, O God, now and for-ev-er. A-men.*

#### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP**

**PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR** (\*Options for "Father" include "Mother," "Creator," "Parent.")

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

#### **SHARING THE ELEMENTS**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER** (unison)

**We give you thanks, O God, for the blessings of this table.**

**May our lives be made new by these gifts of grace**

**and may your love be made known through us. Amen.**

#### **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY**

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

*Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow,  
praise God all crea-tures here be-low. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!  
Praise God for all that love has done,  
Cre-a-tor, Christ, and Spir-it, One. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!  
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!*

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**HYMN 459 v. 1-2 & 5**

*Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

Abbot's Leigh

*Lord, you give the great com-mis-sion: "Heal the sick and preach the word."*

*Lest the church ne-glect its mis-sion, and the gos-pel go un-heard,*

*help us wit-ness to your pur-pose with re-newed in-teg-ri-ty.*

*With the Spir-it's gifts em-power us for the work of min-is-try.*

*Lord, you call us to your ser-vice: "In my name bap-tize and teach."*

*That the world may trust your prom-ise, life a-bun-dant meant for each,*

*give us all new fer-vor, draw us clos-er in com-mu-ni-ty.*

*With the Spir-it's gifts em-power us for the work of min-is-try.*

*Lord, you bless with words as-sur-ing: "I am with you to the end."*

*Faith and hope and love re-stor-ing, may we serve as you in-tend*

*and, a-mid the cares that claim us, hold in mind e-ter-ni-ty.*

*With the Spir-it's gifts em-power us for the work of min-is-try.*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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