

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
United Church of Christ  
July 4, 2021

Ministry of the Acolyte

Gathering #221 “All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord”

All praise to our redeeming Lord,  
who joins us by his grace,  
and bids us, each to each restored,  
together seek his face.

He bids us build each other up;  
and gathered into one,  
to our high calling’s glorious hope,  
we hand in hand go on.

And if our fellowship below  
in Jesus be so sweet,  
What greater blessings shall we know  
When round his throne we meet.

Welcome and Announcements

*Ross Fairweather*

Opening Prayer

Prelude

Responsive Reading

One: This is how we came to this great land, America:

**All: following the caribou across the frozen land bridge;  
sailing wooden war-ships in a westward search for gold;**

One: looking for a place to work and worship as we wanted;  
loaded onto slave ships, stacked and chained in the hold.

**All: We struggled with the elements;  
we struggled with each other;  
we struggle still to live up to the prophet’s holy dream:**

One: “I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up  
and live out the true meaning of its creed, that all people  
are created equal . . .

**All: “and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all flesh shall see it together. I have a dream.  
I have a dream today.” Amen.**

\*Hymn #596

“I Surrender All”

All to Jesus, I surrender; all to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.

[Refrain] I surrender all, I surrender all,  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender; humbly at His feet I bow,  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken; take me, Jesus, take me now. [Refrain]

All to Jesus, I surrender; make me, Savior, wholly Thine;  
Let me feel the Holy Spirit, truly know that Thou art mine. [Refrain]

All to Jesus, I surrender; Lord, I give myself to Thee;  
Fill me with Thy love and power; let Thy blessing fall on me. [Refrain]

**\*Confession: Generous Sovereign, you have shown us the way of blessing:  
“Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.” And still we  
spend our lives looking out for number one, instead of sharing justly  
with the poor. And still we keep the suffering of others at a distance,  
instead of reaching out them with kindness. And still we tread the  
lonely path of self-centered fear, instead of walking humbly with  
you. Forgive us, O God. By this holy meal, nourish our souls and  
strengthen our hearts to walk with Jesus in the path of blessing. We  
pray in his loving name. AMEN**

Assurance of Pardon with Gloria Patri #813

Statement of Faith:

**We are not alone; we live in God’s world.  
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.  
We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus,  
crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.  
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

Moments of Concern and Celebration

Pastoral Prayer and Our Savior’s Prayer (trespasses)

Special Music

Worship of God with our Tithes and Offerings

\*Doxology #815 and Offertory Prayer

Scripture Mark 6:1-13

Sermon "on the road again"

\*Hymn #462 "Come Share the Lord"

We gather here in Jesus' name;  
His love is burning in our hearts like living flame,  
For thru the loving Son, the Father makes us one:  
Come take the bread; come drink the cup; come share the Lord.

He joins us here; he breaks the bread.  
The Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead.  
The one we love the most is now our gracious host:  
Come take the bread; come drink the cup; come share the Lord.

We'll gather soon where angels sing;  
We'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King.  
Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:  
Come take the bread; come drink the wine; come share the Lord.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Prayer: **You have given yourself to us, loving God, in the simple food and drink we have shared. Jesus has been here. Even now, his presence is strengthening us to be his Body. God, give us courage; make us whole and give us peace. Fill us with Holy Spirit and send us out to touch the world with your healing Presence; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Friend. Amen.**

\*Benediction

Response: #391 "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.  
There are sweet expressions on each face,  
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love.  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise.  
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived  
When we shall leave this place.

Postlude