

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

August 1, 2021

Those who are able may stand where marked (*).

Ministry of the Acolyte

Gathering #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.

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer *Mary Menzies*

Prelude

Responsive Reading Ephesians 4:1-6, 14-16

One: Let us lead lives that are worthy
of the calling to which we've been called.

**All: With humility, gentleness and patience,
let us bear with one another in love,
making every effort to maintain
the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

One: There is one body and one Spirit,
just as we were called to one great hope.

**All: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
above all and through all and in all.**

One: We must no longer be children,
blown about by every new teaching;

**All: but, speaking the truth in love,
we must grow up into Him who is the head.**

One: Joined and knit together, with every part
working as it was meant to work,

**All: let us grow into Christ, through whom the whole body
builds itself up in love.**

*Hymn #384

“Spirit Song”

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love;
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit, like a dove,
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Refrain: Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Oh, come and sing the song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy;
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.
Oh, give him all your tears and sadness, give him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. *[Refrain]*

***Confession: Loving God, you give us voices tuned to songs of joy and we fill your ear with worry and complaint. You give us hands ideally formed for tender loving care and we ball them into fists and hurt each other. You give us hearts of yielding flesh to fill your world with kindness and we trade them in for hearts of stone and fill your world with fear. Forgive us, O God, for abusing your gifts, for walking away from our calling. In your mercy, take away our sin and fill us again with your purpose. We ask in the name of Jesus, who blessed your gifts with his great love. 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

John 6:24-35

*Hymn #207 "We Have Come to Join in Worship"

We have come to join in worship and adore the Lord our God.
Let us come in prayer, expecting God to speak His mighty Word.
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down.
Christians, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

See them gather all around you, those He bought at such a cost;
See the weary, see the hurting, see the lonely, see the lost.
Be His hand, and touch the needy; be His gospel, let it sound!
Be His body, and sweet manna will be showered all around.

Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.
Let us care for all His people till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven; at His banquet we'll sit down;
Christ Himself will rise and serve us living manna all around.

Sermon

"till I want no more"

*Hymn #413 "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

Break Thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee, O living Word!

Break Thou the bread of life, O Lord, to me,
That hid within my heart Thy word may be;
Mold Thou each inward thought, from self set free,
And let my steps be all controlled by Thee.

Open Thy Word of truth that I may see
Thy message written clear and plain for me;
Then in sweet fellowship, walking with Thee,

Thine image on my life engraved will be.

Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
As Thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall,
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

Oh, send Thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me,
That He may touch my eyes, and make me see:
Show me the truth concealed within Thy Word,
And in Thy Book revealed I see 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: #426 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts, and our cares.

When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.