

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**September 12, 2021**

Ministry of the Acolyte

Gathering Music "Awake, Awake to Love and Work"

The image shows a page from a hymnal with the title "Awake, Awake to Love and Work" and the number "34". The page includes the following information:  
- Composer: Geoffrey A. Studdert-Kennedy, 1883-1929  
- Melody: "Kentucky Harmony," 1816  
- Harmonization: by C. Winfred Douglas, 1867-1944  
- Genre: MORNING SONG 8.6.8.6.8.6.  
The score is written for voice and piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are:  
1 A - wake, a - wake to love and work! The lark is in the sky;  
2 Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, Shout with their shout of praise;  
3 To give and give, and give a - gain, What God hath giv - en thee;  
The fields are wet with dia - mond dew; The worlds a - wake to cry  
See how the gi - ant sun soars up, Great lord of years and days!  
To spend thy - self nor count the cost; To serve right glo - rious - ly  
Their bless - ings on the Lord of life, As he goes meek - ly by.  
So let the love of Je - sus come And set thy soul a - blaze.  
The God who gave all worlds that are, And all that are to be.  
The word "MORNING" is printed at the bottom right of the page.

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer *Mary Menzies*

Prelude

Responsive Reading *Based on Psalm 1*

One: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

**All: but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.**

One: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

**All: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

One: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

**All: for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

We Lift Up Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

Special Music

We Dedicate our Gifts

\*Doxology (#815)

Offering prayer

## Scripture

Jeremiah 11:18-20

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

Hymn #424 "The Servant Song"

Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;  
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow 'til we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Sermon "The child grows to full stature in Christ" *Victoria Cole*

Hymn #648 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.  
Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast.  
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be.  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive.  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore they temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; true and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

## Benediction

Response # 237 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing"

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing,  
triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us,  
trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration  
for your gospel's joyful sound:  
may the fruits of your salvation

in our hearts and lives abound:  
ever faithful, ever faithful  
to the truth may we be found.

Postlude

*We welcome Victoria Cole to the pulpit this week.*

*Scriptures for Sunday, September 26: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124; Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20 and Mark 9:38-50*

*Please note: Our guest leader, Ernest Shipman, may or may not use these texts.*

***Our Mission Statement:***

*As followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are called to provide a loving invitation and welcome to all, to inspire and uplift through the worship of God, to reach out to heal and enrich lives through the Holy Spirit, and to nurture people at various stages of their spiritual growth.*

Online Giving <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YR4H/home>

**CHURCH STAFF**

Organist & Music Director: Dorothy Morton  
Administrative Assistant: Pam Nute

**OFFICERS:**

Moderator: Tim Gould  
Vice-Moderator: Alice Muh  
Treasurer: Joyce Krill  
Assistant Treasurer: Rachel Clark

**COMMITTEES**

**Christian Education:** Kim Smith, Chair  
**Deacons:** Mary Menzies, Chair  
**Finance:** Phil Krill, Chair  
**Mission:** Linda Warden, Chair  
**Music:** Tina Peabody, Chair  
**Personnel Relations:** Tina Peabody, Chair  
**Property Management:** Dan Kiefer  
**Stewardship:** Mary Menzies  
**Trustee of Trust Funds:** Dudley Bailey  
**Steeple Minute:** Pam Nute

**Shining Lights Learning Center:**

Director: Ms. Melissa Kam  
Board President: Suzanne Schott

~~~~~

*Thank you for joining us for worship today!  
It is our sincere hope that all who gather in  
this place will know and experience the love,  
forgiveness, hope, and new life available  
through Jesus Christ.*