



First Reformed United Church of Christ

Where People Discover...
The Love of God...
The Power to Love Others...
The Ability to Love Ourselves.

The Worship of God

October 18, 2020
Children's Sabbath
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Sabbath Celebration

Gathering

"BOLD" indicates congregational response

Prelude "Come Down, O Love Divine" Robert Wilson
[Anna Laura Page]

Welcome and Invitation to Worship Rev. Elizabeth Horton

History of Children's Sabbath Jacob Hartle

Call to Worship Caroline White

Gather us, O God. Bring us together to live with your love.
Gather our minds, O God, to focus on you and your children.
Gather our wills, O God, to be strong and brave.
Help us to seek justice.
Make us one in heart, mind, and spirit as we worship you today.
Come, let us worship God.

Hymn "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" Ellen Peterson

Invocation Emma Hartle

Almighty and ever-living God, our source of power and inspiration, give us strength and joy in serving you as followers of Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Centering

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 43: 1-7 Lucas Peterson

43 But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

³ For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush^[a] and Seba in your stead.

⁴ Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.

⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'
Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Prayer of Confession

Kiaya Plummer

God of infinite possibility, we confess that too often we are stuck in what is rather than working toward what could be. We doubt we can make a difference and so we just try to get through the day. We become overwhelmed by pain, problems, and the pandemic, and want to hide our hearts, sit on our hands, wait for it to end.

Forgive us, O God, for living too little in the largeness of your love. Fill us, we pray, with courage and compassion, vision and determination to embody your love, seek your will, and strive for your justice that will enable all children to thrive and live with joy in the fullness of life that you intend.

These things we pray in the name of your child, Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Christina Gzrech

"Behold, I make all things new." Friends, by the grace of God made known in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Ethan & Kyndell Lovell

Young Disciples

Reflection on Isaiah 43:1-7

Sam West

Prayer for Illumination

Rylee Gzrech

O God, some of us come to this time from homes that have been too silent for so long. Others of us come from nonstop noise and days of distraction. Whether from solitude or chaos, we long now to hear your word to us, for us. By the power of your Spirit, give us the ears to hear, the hearts to feel, the spirits to respond to the word you have for us this day. Amen.

Prayers for the People and The Lord's Prayer

Parker Horton

O God, you hear our prayers whether we are young or old, rich or poor, bold or quiet, confident or doubting, whether the prayers are spoken aloud or whispered in the silence of our hearts. Hear us — each of us, all of us.

We pray that you will help us truly be your Church by living into your upside-down kingdom where the last are first and the least are lifted up.

We pray for our world, our whole huge hurting world with caverns stretching between the wealthy and the poor, those with easy access to education and those for whom school is just a dream, those whose childhood is a time of learning and play and those whose childhood is a time of work and worry.

Help us to close those gaps with justice and compassion.

We pray for ourselves, for love that embraces all children, for hope that presses us forward in seeking justice, and faith that guides us.

These things we ask in the name of the One who taught us to 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 debts, As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Proclaiming

Second Reading

Matthew 22: 15-22

Patrick Horton

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are.

Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?"

Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

"Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

Hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth" Jianna Miller

Sermon "Seeing Justice and Finding Joy"
Bella & Bryson Gentry and Jianna Miller

Responding

Prayer for Justice (from "The Book of Common Prayer, USA") Ethan Lovell

Almighty God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil, and to make no peace with oppression. And, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice to the glory of your holy name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Virtual Passing of the Light "This Little Light of Mine"

Sending

Call to Serve Rev. Horton

Benediction

Postlude "Toccata on 'Ein feste Burg'" Robert Wilson
[Craig A. Penfield]

Special thanks to Stacy Sosebee-West for coordinating today's worship service.

Join our "**Fellowship & Prayer Concerns**" Zoom Chat **HERE**
after worship from 12-12:30pm and catch up with your church friends!
(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Password: 3n7IX8)

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OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

*Patti Lovell, Susan Odom, *Ellen Bouchard, Kelly Greathouse, John Potts, Charm Ketner, Margot Everhart, Lisa Price, Patti Lovell, Jeff Hutchens, Deanna Michael

OUR MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crotts, Ruth Essick, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Bob Shaak, Lib Sink, Katherine Skipper, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

Piedmont Crossing:

Mary Berrier, Doris Flynt

OUR FRIENDS:

Barbara Miller (Eddie Yates' mother), Buddy Hedrick (Frankie Hedrick's husband), Angie Bouchard (Lee and Ellen Bouchard's youngest daughter)

***Indicates newly added. Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks. To add a name to the prayer list please call the church office (336-248-2617).**

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

20th ...Lee Ann Peele

21st ...Mark Loper

22nd...Molly Robertson

ANNIVERSARIES

23rd ...Jeremy & Keri Lovell

WEEKLY CALENDAR

October 18 CHILDREN'S SABBATH:

9:30AM **Adult Bible Study on Exodus via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).**
(Meeting ID: 899 1141 8582 Passcode: 793724)

10:45AM **Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) or Facebook [HERE](#).**

12:00PM **Join us [HERE](#) for Fellowship & Prayer Concerns via Zoom**
(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 & Password: 3n7IX8)

October 20:

12:00PM **2CFAR: Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).**
(Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 & Password: 222495)

7:00PM **Adult Book Study on "Evangelicals" via Zoom**

Join the meeting using the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83691735429?pwd=R3c5L1JBUVI2SGNyeXVqZWpQdXBsZz09>

Meeting ID: 836 9173 5429 Passcode: 262712 Dial by your location +1 929 205 6099

5:30PM **Board of Property Management meeting in Fellowship Hall**

October 21:

12:00PM **Worship Service (Sign up [HERE](#) to reserve your space.)**

5:30PM **High School Youth Meeting via Zoom. You may join the meeting [HERE](#).**
(Meeting ID: 826 0087 0645)

7:00PM **Worship Service (Sign up [HERE](#) to reserve your space.)**

October 25:

9:30AM **Adult Bible Study on Exodus via Zoom. Join the meeting [HERE](#).**
(Meeting ID: 899 1141 8582 Passcode: 793724)

10:45AM **Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) or Facebook [HERE](#).**

12:00PM **Join us [HERE](#) for Fellowship & Prayer Concerns via Zoom**
(Meeting ID: 207 685 007 & Password: 3n7IX8)

7:00PM **Prayer Vigil: A Call to End Racism outside at 2nd United Church of Christ, 330 North Church Street**

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesdays in October

12:00PM & 7:00PM **30-minute Worship Service in the Sanctuary (Sign up [HERE](#) to reserve your space.)**

October 30:

6-7:00PM **Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat**

We invite you to dress up in your Halloween costumes and if you are so inspired "dress up" your car. We will have Trunks decorated for all to enjoy and give each of you a treat. This will be held in the parking lot of the Education Building. Please enter through the Center Street entrance. We are looking forward to seeing you all.

October 31:

DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR BEFORE YOU GO TO BED!

November 1: **HOMECOMING SUNDAY
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**

November 29: **First Sunday in Advent**