

Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope

April 26, 2020

First Church in Windsor, UCC -Livestream

10:00am

Prelude

“Jesu, Jesu”

trad. Ghanian

Introit

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

trad. Spiritual

**There is a Balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.**

Call to Worship

One: As this new day begins, the God of healing is present in those among us who are caregivers for the sick.

Two: **Healing God, conscious that caregivers reflect your compassion, we honor them and pray for them in a special way today.**

One: We ask you to hold them in your tenderness, give them an assurance of your spirit of strength as they minister to your people, and be for them a sign and source of hope.

Two: **As Christians, we are called, indeed empowered, to comfort others in the midst of their suffering by giving them a reason to hope.**

One: We are called to help them experience God's enduring love for them. We are to do for one another what Jesus did: comfort others by inspiring in them hope and confidence in life.

Two: **Let us worship God, who brought us Jesus, the great healer and comforter of all who are sick and suffering.**

Hymn

“We Are Called”

David Haas

**Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called
to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom
of the the city of God!**

**We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

**Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called
to be hope for the hopeless,
so hatred and blindness
will be no more!**

**We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

**Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day
when all will be one!
God will reign,
and we'll walk with each other,
as sisters and brothers,
united in love!**

**We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

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Prayer of Invocation

Loving God, on this day we remember healthcare workers near and far. We pledge our prayerful support to all who give of themselves daily in the healing ministry of Jesus. As they work to cure, speak to soothe, and touch to heal in the power of the Holy Spirit, may they be renewed in their commitment of service to the healthcare ministry. Lay your gentle hand upon each of them as they touch others with your presence. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Morning Prayer

Silent Prayer
Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

“Amazing Grace”

**Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found. Was blind but now I see.**

Scripture

Matthew 4: 23-25

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. 25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis,[a] Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Sermon

“Called to Heal”

Pastor Nicole

Video Meditation in Honor of Healthcare Workers

“I Think It’s Going to Rain Today”

Randy Newman

Sung by Midge Christopher

Lighting the Candles

We light this candle to let caregivers know they are honored and highly valued, to celebrate the efforts that they make in serving the sick each day. We thank them for the love they give to others and pray that they, too, may be showered with God's love.

We light this candle as a tribute to all family caregivers among us who give so much of themselves to loved ones. We pray that they may find ways to share the responsibility of caregiving and experience consolation and strength on their journey.

We light this candle for all doctors, nurses, pastoral care workers, social workers, aides, and all healthcare workers who seek to cure the bodies, nurse the souls, and heal the hearts of the sick who come to them. May they be given wisdom and skill, patience and determination, compassion and sympathy as they perform the ministry of healing.

We rejoice in the light of these candles, reminders of the presence of God's people, the caregivers, committed to the healing ministry of Jesus. May the divine healer bless them.

Hymn

"The Servant Song?"

Richard Gillard

**Won't you let me be your servant,
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
go the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the shadow 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
till 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.**

**Won't you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.**

Announcements

Benediction

Postlude

“Prelude #6”

Lennox Berkeley

Today's Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation were adapted and used by permission of Sr. Barbara McMullen, CDP, senior associate, Sponsor Services, Catholic Health Association, St. Louis