



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



First Church in Windsor, UCC
Livestream Worship

August 2, 10 a.m.

Social Justice in the Bible Sunday, Part IV

Prelude

If You Say Go

Words and music by Diane Thiel
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Welcome

Introit

Lift Every Voice and Sing
Written by James Weldon Johnson
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**Lift every voice and sing,
till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmony of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise,
high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.**

Call to Worship

One: These are the words of God:
Two: I will go before you to level the mountains;
One: I will give you the treasures of darkness,
Two: That you may know
One: That it is I, the God of Israel, who call you by name.
Two: I call you by your name.
One: I am God and there is no other.
Two: From the rising of the sun in the east,
One: To the setting of the sun in the west,
Two: Let us worship God together

Hymn

Let Me Enter God's Dwelling
By Joachim Neander
Public domain

**Let me enter God's own dwelling,
open wide the lovely door!
Here, all earthly powers excelling,
God receives the sick and poor.
Joy, my heart, in this dear place:
here I see God face to face.**

**I have come to church to meet you:
condescend to come to me!
Anxious, needy, I entreat you,
come inside and welcome be--
Here at home, within my breast--
I your temple, richly blessed.**

**Make my mind and body holy,
sanctify my ears and lips.
Lift my spirit, poor and lowly,
all bright vanities eclipse.
Take my praise, however flawed,
as your offering, worthy God.**

Prayer of Invocation

O God of life, there is so much that deals in doubt and despair and death in our world, and we are often tempted to succumb to these forces. Help us always to choose life; to affirm what can be affirmed, to hope where hope is possible; and to dare to lift up human dignity. We pray this in the Jesus the Christ. Amen.

The 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

Just a Closer Walk with Thee
Anonymous
Public Domain

**Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, this my plea,
Daily walking close to thee:
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

Scripture

Esther 2:5-11

⁵Now there was a Jew in the citadel of Susa whose name was Mordecai son of Jair son of Shimei son of Kish, a Benjaminite. ⁶Kish had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with King Jeconiah of Judah, whom King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had carried away. ⁷Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is Esther, his cousin, for she had neither father nor mother; the girl was fair and beautiful, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai adopted her as his own daughter. ⁸So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women

were gathered in the citadel of Susa in custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women. ⁹The girl pleased him and won his favor, and he quickly provided her with her cosmetic treatments and her portion of food, and with seven chosen maids from the king's palace, and advanced her and her maids to the best place in the harem. ¹⁰Esther did not reveal her people or kindred, for Mordecai had charged her not to tell. ¹¹Every day Mordecai would walk around in front of the court of the harem, to learn how Esther was and how she fared.

Sermon

Pastor Nicole

“Esther in the Court of King Xerxes”

Hymn

Strengthen All You Weary Hands

Words and music by Martie McMane

c 1991 Martie McMane

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**Strengthen all the weary hands,
steady all the trembling knees,
and say to all faint hearts:
“Courage, courage, do not be afraid.**

**Chorus: Look, your God is coming.
God comes, comes to save you.
Courage, courage, do not be afraid.”**

**Waters flow in the wilderness,
streams break forth amid arid deserts,
burning sands turn to pools.
Be strong, fear not, for your God is near.**

Chorus

**Then the ransomed shall return,
they shall come to Zion with singing.
Joy shall crown their heads.
Sorrow, sighing, all shall flee away.**

Chorus

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Communion Response

Seed, Scattered and Sown

Words and music by Dan Feiten

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: In thanksgiving for this meal of grace and in the holy dispersion of virtual worship, we claim the risen Christ's love and gentle yoke are found in all houses of worship. Let us pray ...

All: O Holy One, we have come unto you with our weariness and we have let go of all in our lives that is heavy. We thank you for the rest and strength of this communion so now we can lift up all that is light and gentle, humble and easy, and learn from you how to change the world. Amen.

Hymn

Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

Words and music by Ray Repp

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**Peace I leave with you, my friends,
shalom, my peace in all you do.
Peace I leave with you, my friends.
I give to you
so you can give to others, too.**

**To share God's love is why I came,
to show God's kindness without end.
Go now, my friends, and do the same,
until I come again.**

**Peace I leave with you, my friends,
shalom, my peace in all you do.
Peace I leave with you, my friends.
I give to you
so you can give to others, too.**

Announcements

Benediction

Postlude

Children's Corner Suite, 1st Movement by Claude Debussy

The prayers for today's worship were adapted and used by permission from *Bread for the Journey* by Ruth Duck, ed., Cleveland: United Church Press, 1981. The Prayer of Thanksgiving was used by permission of Maren Tirabassi www.giftsinopenhands.com.