



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



First Church in Windsor, UCC
Livestream Worship
September 13, 10 a.m.

Homecoming & Water Communion Sunday

Prelude

Verset #23 by Leon Boellmann

Welcome

Introit

We Are God's Work of Art
Words and music by Marty Haugen
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**We are God's work of art, fashioned in Christ,
fashioned to shine with goodness and light.
As it was from the start, formed by this great, great love,
we are God's great, wondrous work of art.**

Call to Worship

One: All who thirst, come to the water.
Two: Come all who are weary;
One: Come, all who yearn for forgiveness.
Two: The Holy Spirit has washed over us,
One: And our gracious and holy God beckons and blesses us.
Two: Jesus calls us to drink deeply from the living waters.
One: Come now, and drink the water of life.

Introduction to Water Communion

Hymn

Down to the River to Pray
American Traditional
Public Domain

**As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown,
good Lord, show me the way.**

**O sisters, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
O sisters, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.**

**As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the robe and crown,
good Lord, show me the way.**

**O brothers, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
O brothers, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.**

**As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown,
good Lord, show me the way.**

**O fathers, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
O fathers, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.**

**As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the robe and crown,
good Lord, show me the way.**

**O mothers, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
O mothers, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.**

**As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown,
good Lord, show me the way.**

**O sinners, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
O sinners, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.**

Prayer of Invocation

Holy God, it starts with a drop, then a trickle...a gurgle, a rush of water, bubbling toward its destination, and finally the wide, endless sea. Today we brought water poured it into a common bowl. Though our experiences have differed, these waters mingle, signifying our common humanity. Today we share in this sacred community again. Our hearts are filled with hope for new beginnings; a fresh start. We know that we can always return to this community, where rivers of tears may be shed, where dry souls are watered, where your joy bubbles, where the cup of a renewed covenant overflows. Deep in our spirits, we thank you God that we have found in this place a home. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Our Savior

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.

Children's Moment

Scripture

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

Meditation on God the Artist

Laurel Pepin

Sermon

Pastor Nicole

“Like a Tree Planted by Water”

Hymn

I Shall Not be Moved
African American Spiritual
Public Domain

**I shall not be, I shall not be moved.
I shall not be, I shall not be moved.
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
I shall not be moved.**

**When my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved.
When my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved.
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
I shall not be moved.**

**When my burden's heavy, I shall not be moved.
When my burden's heavy, I shall not be moved.
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
I shall not be moved.**

**The church of God is marching, I shall not be moved.
The church of God is marching, I shall not be moved.
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
I shall not be moved.**

Prayers of the People

Response

Change My Heart

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**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**

**You are the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.**

**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**

Announcements

Benediction

Benediction Response

We Are Called

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**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!**

Postlude

Verset #5 by Leon Boellmann

The Call to Worship was adapted and used by permission The Worship Sourcebook Grand Rapids: Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013. Prayer of Invocation for today's service were adapted from www.uua.org/worship prayers by Eric Cherry and Kayle Rise.