



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



First Church in Windsor, UCC  
Livestream Worship  
September 20, 10 a.m.

### **God the Artist 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** (From "A Potter's Blessing" by Sylvia Hardy)

- One: May inspiration always sit at your shoulder.  
May your clay be soft and supple.
- Two: May your hands always find the center true.  
And sculpting come easy to you.**
- One: May glazes flow smoothly along.  
And your creation gently fire to perfection
- Two: May slumping and cracking and breaking be strangers.  
May your shaping never be wrong.**
- One: Let the kiln be your friend.  
Let the clay never end.
- Two: May you always find a clean wheel, a clean board, and a clean canvas  
And may all of us here remain friends.**

#### **Hymn**

*God Reigns o'er All the Earth*

English Traditional  
Public Domain

**God reigns o'er all the earth!  
Green hills and valleys low,  
the farms and towns in golds and browns  
God's grace and beauty show.**

**God reigns o'er all the earth!  
Stone banks and spreading plains,  
in rainbow hues-- reds, yellows, blues--  
of streams and country lanes.**

**God reigns o'er human life!  
Through youth and aging years,  
in death, in birth, in grief, in mirth,  
in all our hopes and fears.**

**God reigns o'er human life!  
Our inspiration still.  
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams,  
we see God's reigning will.**

**God reigns o'er time and space!  
In history's bygone days,  
Christ's faithful folk in reverence spoke  
to bring God's earnest praise.**

**God reigns o'er time and space!  
O'er galaxy and sun,  
through timeless years the cosmos hears  
the heavenly music run.**

### **Prayer of Invocation**

**Like a skilled potter, O God, you have shaped each one of us as a unique design. You know us better than we know ourselves. You value us more highly than we can imagine. You weep when we are marred or broken through our own mistakes or the world's cruelty. We gather now to assemble our prayers for one another and all the world's people in a chorus of love and care. Hear us, gracious God. 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 18:1-6**

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

#### **Meditation**

Laurel Pepin

#### **Sermon**

Pastor Nicole & Allison Flores

"God the Potter"

## Hymn

### *O God as with a Potter's Hand*

Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Württembergischen Hofkapelle  
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**O God, as with a potter's hand, when earth was morning bright,  
you shaped from clay a human form that gave your eye delight.  
You breathed in love your Spirit's breath: a living creature stirred  
and stood within the garden green, awake to hear your Word.**

**Can clay defy the potter's touch, alone it's form define,  
or spoil with wild, rebellious will the artist's true design?  
Yet we, in whom your hand has formed an image good and fair,  
disfigure what you meant to be a work beyond compare.**

**But once you shaped from human clay a life whose truth and grace  
revealed an image pure and whole that sin could not deface.  
And when we seized your choicest work and broke its fragile clay,  
your hands restored the shattered shards on earth's first Easter day.**

**O God, you hold our earthen lives within your shaping hand  
and turn our forming clay to show the image you have planned.  
Forgive the sin that mars your work and strives against your will.  
Conform our lives to Jesus Christ with wisdom, love, and skill.**

## 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

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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 *Gathered by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Cleveland: United Church Press, 1994.