



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



First Church in Windsor, UCC
October 25, 10 a.m.

God the Artist Sunday Part VI, Generosity Sunday

Prelude

Take My Gifts

Words by Shirley Erena Murray
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Traditional English tune
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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: O God, we desire to be good stewards of all that you have made: the earth, the world, and all that dwells therein. All that we have comes as a trust from you.

Two: **God, we give thanks for your gifts to us.**

One: We are called by God to use whatever gifts we have been given in service to others.

Two: **As you have so freely given to us, we now freely give back to you the substance of our lives-our time, talent, and money.**

One: We are reminded in the gospel that from the poverty of the cross we have gained the richness of life

Two: **Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to give to the work you have assigned our hands to do in this your earthly kingdom.**

One: Lord, Adonai, where our hearts and hands are closed, open them. Where our resolve is weak, strengthen us.

Two: **Teach us to give as we have received.**

One: We pray that we shall be good and faithful stewards, sharing with others the light that Jesus has given us, ever giving and serving from a willing heart.

Hymn

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Words by Martin Luther

Traditional German tune

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**A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing,
our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe
with craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth without an equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
but there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free!
With mighty power to save, victorious o'er the grave,
Christ will prevail triumphant.**

**That Word beyond all earthly powers forever is abiding;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us siding.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill; God's truth shall triumph still;
God's reign endures forever.**

Prayer of Invocation

O God, our true home, we come together to unite our stories with those of our spiritual ancestors. Some of us have come from a desert place, desperate for nourishment. Some of us come places of abundant harvests and yet are not satisfied. You are among us all, living God. Lead all of us, your people, by the way of humble service in the example of Jesus. In this way, may we be your humble followers, offering of our substance and ourselves. 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

Deuteronomy 27:2-3

On the day that you cross over the Jordan into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall set up large stones and cover them with plaster. You shall write on them all the words of this law when you have crossed over, to enter the land that the Lord your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

1 Samuel 7:12

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Jeshanah, and named it Ebenezer; for he said, "Thus far the Lord has helped us."

“We’ve Made it This Far”

Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
From Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music
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**Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.**

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Response

Jesus is a Rock
African American Spiritual

**Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a weary land, a weary land.
My Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a shelter in the time of storm.**

Announcements

Generosity Video

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

Andante Cantabile by Felix Mendelssohn

Thanks to guest musicians Jeff Zirbel and Rich Thornburg!

The Call to Worship was adapted from African American Heritage Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 2001. The Prayer of Invocation was adapted and used by permission *Taught by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Cleveland: United Church Press, 1998.

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