



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



First Church in Windsor, UCC  
June 20, 10 a.m.

## **Father's Day**

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome**

### **Litany for Father's Day**

**Leader:** God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we thank you for our fathers and the care they have given your creation.

**People:** **You are the Father-Mother of Jesus, O God, are the model of perfect love and nurture.**

**Leader:** We celebrate Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, who assumed unexpected responsibilities with grace and dedication.

**People:** **Abba Father, Great Teacher, instruct our fathers in the ways of grace-filled love and dedication.**

**Leader:** O Great Physician, teach us how to mend family ties that have been severed.

**People:** **We remember the weathered hands, the gentle spirits, and the humble hearts of our own fathers.**

**Leader:** Our fathers have been warriors, leaders of families, pillars of faith in church and society.

**People:** **Continue to strengthen the minds, bodies and spirits of our fathers, so they may faithfully serve you.**

**Leader:** Thank you that fathers have taught us strength in adversity, and led us in work and at play, in sports and fishing, and developing our careers.

**People:** **Thank God for fathers. Amen.**

### **Hymn**

*This is My Father's World*

Traditional English melody

Words by Maltbie D. Babcock

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**This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,  
All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; God's hands the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the flowers bright, declare their Maker's praise.  
Our God has made this world and shines in all that's fair;  
In rustling grass I hear God pass, who speaks to me everywhere.**

**Our God has made this world; oh, let us ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
God trust us with this world, to keep it clean and fair.  
All earth and trees, the skies and seas, God's creatures everywhere.**

## **Prayer of Invocation**

**O God, our thoughts and prayers are turned toward our fathers. We give thanks for the good men who sustain and support us and love us no matter what. We give thanks for those whose gift of fatherhood is strong, many of whom are fathers in spirit, that they have allowed their caring to spill over to others, providing the guidance and stability, the nurture and love, that is needed. We pray for the fathers who are greatly missed and for whom this day is especially hard. Hear our prayers on this day. 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**

#### **Proverbs 4, selections**

Listen, children, to a father's instruction,  
and be attentive, that you may gain insight;  
<sup>2</sup> for I give you good precepts:  
do not forsake my teaching.  
<sup>3</sup> When I was a son with my father,  
tender, and my mother's favorite,  
<sup>4</sup> he taught me, and said to me,  
'Let your heart hold fast my words;  
keep my commandments, and live.  
<sup>5</sup> Get wisdom; get insight: do not forget, nor turn away  
from the words of my mouth.

Hear, my child, and accept my words,  
that the years of your life may be many.  
<sup>11</sup> I have taught you the way of wisdom;  
I have led you in the paths of uprightness.  
<sup>12</sup> When you walk, your step will not be hampered;  
and if you run, you will not stumble.

<sup>20</sup> My child, be attentive to my words;  
incline your ear to my sayings.  
<sup>21</sup> Do not let them escape from your sight;  
keep them within your heart.  
<sup>22</sup> For they are life to those who find them,  
and healing to all their flesh.  
<sup>23</sup> Keep your heart with all vigilance,  
for from it flow the springs of life.  
<sup>24</sup> Put away from you crooked speech,  
and put devious talk far from you.

- <sup>25</sup> Let your eyes look directly forwards,  
and your gaze be straight before you.  
<sup>26</sup> Keep straight the path of your feet,  
and all your ways will be sure.  
<sup>27</sup> Do not swerve to the right or to the left;  
turn your foot away from evil.

## **Sermon**

“Faith in a Seed: A Father’s Instruction”

Pastor Nicole

## **Father’s Day Slideshow**

## **Hymn**

### *Lead Me, Guide Me*

Words and music by Doris Akers

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**Lead me, guide me, along the way,  
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.**

**I am weak, and I need thy strength and power  
to help me over my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.  
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.**

**Lead me, guide me, along the way,  
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.**

**I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
I am blind without thy light to see.  
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.  
Lead me, oh, Lord, lead me.**

**Lead me, guide me, along the way,  
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.**

## **Prayers of the People**

**Celebration of Karen Mitton**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

## Prayer Response

*In the Bulb There is a Flower*

Words and music by Natalie Sleeth  
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**In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

## Announcements

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. We encourage you to give online [here](#).

## Benediction

### Benediction Response

*You Shall Go Out with Joy*

Words by Steffi Geiser Rubin

Music by Stuart Dauermann

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**You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,  
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field  
Will clap, will clap their hands.**

**And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
The trees of the field will clap their hands,  
The trees of the field will clap their hands,  
While you go out with joy.**

## Postlude

*Two Versets*

By Alexandre Guilmant

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