



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



First Church in Windsor, UCC  
June 27, 10 a.m.

## **New Member Sunday & Pastor Nicole's Sabbatical Commissioning**

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome**

### **Litany of God's Love**

**Leader:** Whatever we have to go through now is nothing compared with the magnificent future in store for us.

**People:** **The whole of creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the daughters and sons of God coming into their own.**

**Leader:** If God is for us, who can be against us?

**People:** **The Great Spirit who does not hesitate to be manifest in human form—can we not trust such a Spirit to give us everything we need?**

**Leader:** Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, pain, or persecution?

**People:** **Can lack of clothes or food, danger to life and limb, the threat of force?**

**Leader:** No, in all these things we find victory through God in Jesus whose love for us has been proven.

**People:** **We are convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else, can separate us from the love of God. AMEN!**

### **Hymn**

#### *One Spirit of Love*

Words and music by Paul B. Swenson

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**Many are the wonders of God, many doors open wide,  
many roads that are still untraveled.**

**Many are the gifts that we share, many burdens we bear,  
many mysteries still unraveled.**

**Many gifts, one spirit of love, one spirit of love.**

**Many gifts, one spirit of love, one spirit of love.**

**Some will be the teachers of life, some the preachers of love,  
some the fathers and some the mothers.**

**Some will be the ones who will care, some will listen and share,  
serving God while they serve each other.**

**Many gifts, one spirit of love, one spirit of love.**

**Many gifts, one spirit of love, one spirit of love.**

**Living as the body of Christ and the heart of the earth,  
and the hands that will break new ground.**

**Celebrate the gifts from within, now it's time to begin.  
God's people can turn the world around.**

**Many gifts, one spirit of love, one spirit of love.  
Many gifts, one spirit of love, one spirit of love.  
One spirit of love, one spirit of love.**

### **Prayer of Invocation**

**God of infinite love, who through Jesus Christ shared our life, and communed with tax collectors and sinners, we rejoice that you come to us and seek us where we are and as we are. We celebrate Christ's presence with us now, working in us, your new creation. 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**

### **Welcome Our New Members**

*Robert Bress, Allison Eichner and sons Joseph and Sean, Lori Foote and daughter Naomi Mitchell, David & Joanne Miller, Gerald & Kathy Parker, and Anne Schenck*

### **Invitation**

#### **Questions of the Candidates**

##### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

Do you believe in God? **I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? **I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? **I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

#### **Question About Participation**

#### **Welcome and Reception**

**We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church.  
We promise you our friendship and prayers, as we share the  
Hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the  
Power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together  
In God's knowledge and love, and be witnesses of our risen Savior**

## Scripture

### Hebrews 12:1-2, 12-13

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

## Sermon

“Faith in a Seed: The Race Before Us”

Pastor Nicole

## Hymn

### *Guide My Feet*

African American Spiritual

Public domain

**Guide my feet while I run this race,  
guide my feet while I run this race,  
guide my feet while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Hold my hand while I run this race,  
hold my hand while I run this race,  
hold my hand while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**I'm your child while I run this race,  
I'm your child while I run this race,  
I'm your child while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

## Commissioning for Sabbatical

## Prayers of the People

## 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**

*Simple Gifts*  
Played by the Bell Choir

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Today's prayers were adapted and used by permission of the Bread for the Journey.  
Ruth Duck, ed. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press 1981.