



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



First Church in Windsor, UCC
July 4, 10 a.m.

**Fourth of July Sunday
Communion Sunday**

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Give us the gift of wise living, O God, and the gift of integrity to our leaders.

People: Let the mountains give exuberant witness; shape the hills with the contours of right living.

Leader: Help us to stand up for the poor, to help children and the needy, and to come down hard on oppressive systems.

People: Your love outlasts the sun and outlasts the moon, age after age.

Leader: Be rainfall on cut grass, earth-refreshing rain showers to our thirsty hearts.

People: Let righteousness burst into blossom and peace abound until the moon fades into nothing.

Leader: Blessed God, Israel's God, the one and only wonder-working God!

All: Blessed always your blazing glory! All earth brims with your glory. Amen and amen!

Opening Hymn

God of the Ages

Words by Daniel Crane Roberts
Music by George William Warren
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**God of the ages, who with sure command
Brought forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.**

**Your purpose, just, envisions mortals free;
God, set our path toward human liberty.
Still be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay—
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.**

**From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
With steadfast care be ever our defense;
Your love and faith within our hearts increase;
With bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.**

**Refresh your people on life's toilsome way;
Lead us from night to neverending day;
With truth and love guide us through error's maze,
And we shall give you glory, laud, and praise.**

Prayer of Invocation

Holy God, you draw us into loving community, unafraid of difference and diversity. Without you, we shatter and separate, into divisions based on border, race, and religion. Help us to lean into complexity, to celebrate good in our country, while also having the courage of accountability. Let your Spirit of active peace come to this community, to this country, and to this world. 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

Hebrews 11:1-4, 39-40

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Sermon

Pastor Peter

"Faith in an Idea"

Hymn

Be Still, My Soul

Words by Katharina von Schlegel

Music by Jean Sibelius

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**Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best eternal friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul: for God will undertake
To guide in future days as in the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still my soul: the waves and wind still know
How Jesus' power ruled them long ago.**

**Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here
When we shall be with God whom we adore,
With disappointment gone, no grief nor fear,
Sorrow replaced with joy forevermore.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

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.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation
Words of Institution
Sharing of the Elements

Communion Response

Come Share the Lord
Words and music by Bryan Jeffrey Leech
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Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Loving God, with gratitude for this holy sacrament, we dedicate:
Our lips to the hope voice of Christ to the despairing;
Our hands to reach out in Christ's name to heal the broken;
Our feet to walk with Christ to visit those who are shunned;
Take us; empower us; use us. Amen.**

Announcements

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

Benediction

Postlude

Vivace in G Major
By John Stanley
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