



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



First Church in Windsor, UCC

Sunday, July 11

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship (from Psalm 126)

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

People: **Our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy!**

Leader: They said, God has done great things for them. And God has done great things, and we are glad.

People: **And now, God, do it again – bring rains to our drought-stricken lives, so those who planted their crops in despair will shout praise at the harvest.**

Leader: Restore our fortunes, God, like streams flowing down from the mountains.

People: **Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! So those who went out with heavy hearts will come home laughing, with armloads of blessing. Amen!**

Hymn

Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom

Words by Fred Kaan

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Music: traditional American

Faith, while trees are still in blossom, plans the picking of the fruit;

Faith can feel the thrill of harvest when the bulbs begin to sprout.

Long before the dawn is breaking, faith anticipates the sun.

Faith is eager for the daylight, for the work that must be done.

Faith, uplifted, tamed the water of the undivided sea,

And the people of the Hebrews found the path that made them free.

Faith believes that God is faithful: God will be what God will be!

Faith accepts the call, responding, "I am willing, Lord, send me."

Prayer of Invocation

God of wonder, you sprout up in our lives in surprising and miraculous ways. You foster growth in us that we could have never imagined without you. And yet we know that we do not reap where we do not sow. Grant us the courage, the foresight, and the wisdom to lay down seeds in our lives. Help us sow in the unlikely places, the dangerous places, where the rest of the world says that nothing will grow. You will make our seeds grow, God, so let us plant seeds with outrageous faith, so that we might reap unthinkable wonders of your love in 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

2 Corinthians 9:6-12

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

Sermon

Pastor Peter

“Faith in a Seed: Bountiful Sowing”

Hymn

Take My Gifts

Words by Shirley Erena Murray

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Music: traditional American

**Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!**

**Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter—flavor of the Jesus life,
Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief!**

**Take whatever I can offer—gifts that I have yet to find,
Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,
Things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:
Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.**

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

Postlude

There is a Happy Land

Traditional Spiritual

Public domain
