



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



First Church in Windsor, UCC

**Laity Sunday
Illuminated Faith
October 24, 2021, at 10 a.m.**

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

Hilary Carpenter

Leader: We are all called to experience grace and share the gift of life in Jesus

People: We gather to sing ourselves to God.

Leader: We remember the faith that lived in those who loved us.

People: We know the LORD's song includes verses of grace we've yet to learn.

Leader: In every scene of trauma, tragedy, and illness, we discover love already at work.

People: And we join a chorus where brokenness becomes healing.

***Hymn**

God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

Words by Catherine Cameron

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Music from Columbia Harmony

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**God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space;
we, your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you;
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.**

**We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,
facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.**

**As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew;
children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor, well begun;
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.**

Prayer of Invocation

Jan Stevens

Holy God, you call us into partnership to be stewards of your world and to care for your people. We thank you that you provide each community with the gifts that are necessary to answer your call to love you with heart and soul and mind and to love others as we have been loved. May we always remember the promises of our baptism and seek, with God's help, to faithfully fulfill them. Strengthen our desire to live in covenant with you and with your people as we seek to demonstrate a spirit of goodness, meekness, patience, and wisdom. We celebrate with thanksgiving the shared responsibility for Christ's ministries that is ours as the church. 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

Anthem

Jubilate, Alleluia!

By Douglas Wagner

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Played by the Bell Choir

Children's Moment

Children aged 3 to 11 may leave for Faith Formation with Erin Newcomb-Moore.

Scripture

Jenn Zirbel

Psalm 139: 1-12

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night',
¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

Illuminated Faith

Bryan Berry

I Believe in Mental Health Treatment and Faith

This I Believe

***Hymn**

I'm Gonna Live So
African American spiritual
Public domain

**I'm gonna live so God can use me, anytime and anywhere.
I'm gonna live so God can use me, anytime and anywhere.**

**I'm gonna work so God can use me, anytime and anywhere.
I'm gonna work so God can use me, anytime and anywhere.**

**I'm gonna pray so God can use me, anytime and anywhere.
I'm gonna pray so God can use me, anytime and anywhere.**

**I'm gonna sing so God can use me, anytime and anywhere.
I'm gonna sing so God can use me, anytime and anywhere.**

**I'm gonna live so God can use me, anytime and anywhere.
I'm gonna live so God can use me, anytime and anywhere**

Litany of Ministry for Lay Leaders

Carrie Burghoff and Carrie Canoni

Leader: Oh God, who sent Jesus into the world not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life to set others free, shape us for your ministry.

All: Claim us O God, for your service, and direct us toward your will.

Leader: You have graced all members of Christ's body, one by one, with gifts of the Spirit to fulfill their vocation: to lead lives worthy of your calling, to be workers who have no reason to be ashamed, to shine as lights to your glory.

All: You have granted each of us the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Leader: You give grace according to the measure of Christ's gift, and some are called to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelist, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Jesus Christ.

All: Grant that together we may all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of your Son to the full stature of Christ.

Leader: Through your grace, O God, may we lead a life worthy of the vocation to which you call us.

All: Claim us, O God, for your service, and direct us toward your will.

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Go Light Your World
Words and music by Chris Rice
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**Carry your candle, run to the darkness,
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn.
Hold out your candle for all to see it.
Take your candle and go light your world.
Take your candle and go light your world.**

Stewardship Moment

Steve Porcaro

Announcements

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

*Benediction

Deb Dupont

Leader: Let us go with caring awareness for the world and all that is in it.

People: We go to discover the needs and the opportunities around us.

Leader: Let us go forth in peace and be led out in joy.

People: We go in God's continuing presence, with the power to love and the strength to serve. Amen!

Postlude

Passacaglia in Bb Major

By Girolamo Frescobaldi

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The prayers for today's service were adapted and used by permission of David C. Teel, Director of Laity and Spiritual Leadership at Discipleship Ministries at the United Methodist Church and Laity Week Resources from the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ www.discipleshomemissions.org

*Please stand as you are able