



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



First Church in Windsor, UCC

**Seventh Sunday after Epiphany: Seeking Wisdom**

February 20, 2022, at 10 a.m.

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship** (Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr)

One: God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed,

**Two: Courage to change the things which should be changed,**

One: and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

**Two Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time,**

One: Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,

**Two: Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it,**

One: Trusting that you will make all things right, if I surrender to your will,

**Two: So that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with you forever in the next.**

**\*Hymn**

*Welcome*

Words by Laurie Zelman and Mark A. Miller

Music by Mark A. Miller

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**Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin  
to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,  
to be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace.**

**Singing welcome, welcome to this place.  
You're invited to come and know God's grace.  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
'cause all of us are welcome here, all are welcome in this place.**

**Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,  
where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,  
and joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray.**

**Singing welcome, welcome to this place.  
You're invited to come and know God's grace.  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
'cause all of us are welcome here, all are welcome in this place.**

## **Prayer of Invocation**

(A New Serenity Prayer by Fr. James Martin, SJ)

**God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, which is pretty much everyone, since I'm clearly not you, God. At least not the last time I checked.**

**And while you're at it, God, please give me the courage to change what I need to change about myself, which is frankly a lot, since, once again, I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect. It's better for me to focus on changing myself than to worry about changing other people, who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying, I can't change anyway.**

**Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter than everyone else in the room, that no one knows what they're talking about except me, or that I alone have all the answers.**

**Basically, God, grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you. 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**

### **Modern Lesson**

“The Hill We Climb”

By Amanda Gorman, as performed by FCW

### **Scripture**

Philippians 4:4-9

(The Message by Eugene Peterson)

4-5 Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in God! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!

6-7 Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

8-9 Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.

### **Sermon**

Pastor Nicole

“The Wisdom to Know the Difference”

**\*Hymn**

*I Will Trust in the Lord*  
African-American Spiritual  
Public domain

**I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord,  
I will trust in the Lord, till I die.  
I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord,  
I will trust in the Lord till I die.**

**I'm gonna treat everybody right, I'm gonna treat everybody right,  
I'm gonna treat everybody right till I die.  
I'm gonna treat everybody right, I'm gonna treat everybody right,  
I'm gonna treat everybody right till I die.**

**I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord,  
I will trust in the Lord till I die.  
I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord,  
I will trust in the Lord till I die.**

**Prayers of the People**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Prayer Response**

*Lead Me*  
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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, O Lord, lead me.**

**Announcements**

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. If you wish, you may give online [here](#).

## Hymn

*What A Friend We Have in Jesus*  
African-American Spiritual  
Public domain

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.**

**Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged; take it to our God in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to our God in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy laden, burdened with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to our God in prayer!  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to our God in prayer!  
Jesus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

**\*Benediction (responsive)**

## Postlude

*Sortie*  
By Cesar Franck  
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\*Please stand as you are able, **Bolded Font** to be read by all