



Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope
First Church in Windsor, UCC

Open and Affirming Sunday
June 26, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship** (The Beatitudes of Dignity)

One: *Blessed are you*, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, straight sister or brother—you are a unique and glorious reflection of God's astounding creativity and love!

Two: *Blessed are you when you dare to bring the truth of who you are into loving relationship with others—you heal and strengthen the body of Christ!*

One: *Blessed are you* who challenge stereotypes and caricatures—you bring light to the world!

Two: *Blessed are you who speak out against religious hypocrisy—you help to birth justice and peace!*

One: *Blessed are you* when you work for full equality and inclusion—you honor the sacredness of all people!

Two: *Blessed are you when you create new kinds of families, families formed by love rather than by law—you live the truth that all God's people are one family!*

One: *Blessed are you* who seek to worship in spirit and in truth, whose prayer arises from humble hearts—the Spirit of Holiness will inspire and guide you!

Two: *Blessed are you who offer comfort to the dying, healing to the sick, food to the hungry, housing to the homeless, presence to the lonely, hope to the hopeless—you are the Gospel, the Good News our aching world so desperately needs to know!*

One: *Blessed are you*, reviled and persecuted, yet persistent in faith, hope and love! Rejoice and be proud, for in you God's love is revealed!

***Hymn**

De Colores
Mexican folk song
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**Sing of colors, sing of colors that over the hills
in profusion are springing;
sing of colors, of the birds that fly outside my window
their canticles singing;
sing of colors, in the rainbow's bright colors
God's promise of hope we recall.**

**Sing of colors that make up the earth
and give thanks to the God who created us all.
Sing of colors that make up the earth
and give thanks to the God who created us all.**

**Sing, rejoicing! Every creature that breathes raise a song
to the God of creation.**

**Sing, rejoicing! Sing to God who so earnestly cares,
who has offered salvation.**

**Sing the good news! Sing the love of the Savior
reflecting the colors of all.**

**Many colors that shine from God's face,
many colors that tell us God's love to recall.**

**Many colors that shine from God's face,
many colors that tell us God's love to recall.**

Prayer of Invocation

Wondrous God, we thank You, that woven throughout the tapestry of earth are the varied threads of human diversity. Created in Your image, we are of many colors and cultures, ages and classes, gender, and sexual identities. Different and alike, we are Your beloved people. Free us, we pray, from fears of difference that divide and wound us. Move us to dismantle our attitudes and systems of prejudice. Renew our commitment to make this a household of faith for all people - gay, bisexual, lesbian, transgender, and straight - that all who worship, and minister here may know the grace and challenge of faith. We ask in Christ's name. 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

1 John 4:20-21

²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Sermon

Pastor Nicole and Anthony Ferraiolo

"Sacred Conversation on the Transgender Community"

***Hymn**

Child of God

Words and music by Mark A. Miller

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**No matter what people say, say or think about me,
I am a child, I am a child of God.**

**No matter what people say, say or think about you,
you are a child, you are a child of God.**

**No matter what the world says, says or thinks about me,
I am a child, I am a child of God.
No matter what the Church says, decisions, pronouncements on you,
you are a child, you are a child of God.**

**And there is nothing or no one who can separate,
they can't separate you from the truth that you're someone,
you are family, you are meant to be a child, a child of God!
You are a child, a child of God!**

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

If You Say "Go"

Words and music by Diane Thiel
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**If you say, 'Go,' we will go.
If you say, 'Wait,' we will wait.
If you say, 'Step out on the water,'
and they say it can't be done,
we'll fix our eyes on you and we will come.**

Announcements

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

***Hymn**

For Everyone Born

Words by Shirley Erena Murray
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Music by Brian Mann
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**For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread.
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing.
For everyone born, a star overhead.**

**And God will delight when we are creators of justice,
and joy, compassion and peace.
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy.**

**For gay and for straight, a place at the table.
To live without fear, and simply to be.
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for gay and for straight, the right to be free.**

**And God will delight when we are creators of justice,
and joy, compassion and peace.
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy.**

***Benediction**

Postlude

Verset in Eb
By Cesar Franck
Public domain

*Please stand as you are able, **Bolded Font** to be read by all

Prayers for today's service were adapted from ONA Renewal Sunday Prayer 2018 composed by Kim Graff.