



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

12 Ways to Be a Christian
July 31 2022, at 10 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship (Psalm 97)**

Leader: Our God is the true ruler of this earth. Let the earth rejoice in God!
People: **Peace and grace are the foundations of God's earth! God lightens the earth so we may see!**
Leader: The heavens proclaim God's glory.
People: **Light dawns for the faithful. Joy dawns for the upright of heart!**
All: **Rejoice in grace, saints of God. Give thanks to God's most holy name. Rejoice! And again we say rejoice!**

***Hymn**

God's Eye Is on the Sparrow
Words by Civilla D. Martin
Music by Charles H. Gabriel
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**Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,
when God is ever my portion, my constant friend will be?
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.**

**I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.**

**Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
when song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I then draw close to my Savior, from care I am set free,
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me,
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.**

**I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.**

Prayer of Invocation

O God, we pray that you will bring into our hearts and minds, our plans and actions, our hopes and prayers, a greater love for all people. Break the silence of prejudice, the isolation of ignorance, the false sense of security in earthly fortresses, and erase the fear that prevents communication. Help us to come home to your love, by becoming one family on this planet we call home. 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

Children's Moment

Scripture

Jeremiah 22: 3-4, 13-16

³Thus says the Lord: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place.⁴For if you will indeed obey this word, then through the gates of this house shall enter kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their servants, and their people.

¹³Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages; ¹⁴who says, "I will build myself a spacious house with large upper rooms," and who cuts out windows for it, paneling it with cedar, and painting it with vermilion. ¹⁵Are you a king because you compete in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. ¹⁶He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? says the Lord.

Sermon

Pastor Nicole

"Protect the Vulnerable"

*Hymn

O For a World
Words by Miriam Winter
Music by Carl Glaser
Public domain

**O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.**

**The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.**

**O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.**

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**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Words by James Weldon Johnson
Music by John Rosamond Johnson
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**Lift every voice and sing, til earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.**

**Sing a song
full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us.
Sing a song,
full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on til victory is won.**

**Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
come to the place for which our people sighed?**

We have come
over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come,
treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered.
Out from the gloomy past, till we now stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet
stray from the places, our God, where we met you.
Lest our hearts,
drunk with the wine of the world, forget you.
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Prayers from today's service were used by permission and adapted from Touch Holiness. Maren Tirabassi and Ruth Duck, eds. New: Pilgrim Press, 1990.

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