



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

12 Ways to be Christian: Keep Sabbath: Work from Rest, not Rest from Work
Communion Sunday
August 7, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship (from Wendell Berry's "Sabbaths-1979")**

Leader: I leave work's daily rule
And come here to this restful place

**People: Where music stirs the pool
And from high stations of the air
Fall notes of wordless grace,**

Leader: Strewn remnants of the primal Sabbath's hymn.
And I remember here

People: I let that go a while,

Leader: For it is hopeless to correct
By generations' toil,

**People: And I let go my hopes and plans
That no toil can perfect.**

***Hymn**

Christians We Have Met to Worship
Words by George Atkins
Music by William Moore
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**Christians, we have met to worship and adore the living God.
Will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down.
Christians, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.**

**Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace and filled with fears?
Is there here a weeping Mary pouring forth a flood of tears?
Tell them all about the Savior, how in Christ the lost are found.
Pray, oh, pray, and holy manna will be scattered all around.**

**Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too.
Let us pray for all earth's people till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven, at the table we'll sit down;
Christ will welcome us and serve us living manna all around.**

Prayer of Invocation

Lord of the Sabbath, hear our prayer. It is hard for us to stop working, and harder still to stop worshipping work. We confess that our busyness often substitutes for focusing on our spiritual lives. Forgive us, God, and help us to be still enough to know you. Help us to understand that your sabbath is the seam between the world of work and the work of worship. Help us to know that the sabbath is what keeps us from unraveling, that it knits up the harried and makes them holy, that it even helps to heal creation from the crash. In this quiet, peaceful time, we honor you, we rest in you, we long to know you as maker and mender. Through Jesus Christ we pray. 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

Taste and See

By James E. Moore

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Children's Moment

Scripture

Exodus 31:13-17

¹³You yourself are to speak to the Israelites: "You shall keep my sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, given in order that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you. ¹⁴You shall keep the sabbath, because it is holy for you; everyone who profanes it shall be put to death; whoever does any work on it shall be cut off from among the people. ¹⁵Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall be put to death. ¹⁶Therefore the Israelites shall keep the sabbath, observing the sabbath throughout their generations, as a perpetual covenant. ¹⁷It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed."

Matthew 12:1-13

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. ²When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath." ³He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. ⁵Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the sabbath

and yet are guiltless? ⁶I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. ⁷But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath." ⁹He left that place and entered their synagogue; ¹⁰a man was there with a withered hand, and they asked him, "Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath?" so that they might accuse him. ¹¹He said to them, "Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it out? ¹²How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the sabbath." ¹³Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other.

Sermon

Pastor Nicole

"Keep Sabbath"

***Hymn**

Come, Share the Lord

Words and music by Bryan Jeffery Leach

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**We gather here in Jesus' name,
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving Son the Creator makes us one:
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine,
come, share the Lord.**

**He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead.
The one we love the most is now our gracious host;
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine,
come, share the Lord.**

**We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming king.
Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine,
come, share the Lord.**

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

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.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion
Invitation to the Table
Words of Institution
Sharing the Elements**

Communion Response

Where Two or Three Are Gathered

Words and music by Liam Lawton

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy Living God, You breathed life all around and called it good. You invited us to the wonder of it all and when we could not face you, you turned us around. You keep bringing us around and around, time and again, offering the chance to join the freedom-dance. Thank you for all of your gifts celebrated today at this sacred table. Amen.

Announcements

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

***Hymn**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Traditional Welsh

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**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.**

In my love's baptismal river,

I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

**Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.**

Here my Spirit's power filled you,

here with tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Andante Cantabile

By Felix Mendelssohn

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