



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

12 Ways to Be a Christian: Taking Responsibility
August 21, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship (“Taking Responsibility” by James Ogunjimi)**

Leader: To that which may never be,
To happiness we may never feel,
To an unbreakable togetherness the world may never see;

**People: This isn't me saying goodbye;
This is me wondering if we could pick up the pieces and have a retry.**

Leader: To one heart bruised and hurt,
To another waiting to be crushed,
To the man tagged evil and feeling lost.

**People: The Balm of Gilead have I none;
And I'm no apostle of robbing Peter to pay Paul.**

Leader: This isn't me giving excuses or making apologies;

People: This is me owning up and taking responsibility.

Hymn

Take My Life

Words by Frances R. Havergal

Music by H.A. Cesar Malan

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**Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.**

Prayer of Invocation

God, you call us to love and serve each other. We gather together in body and in spirit to grow in our ability to do just that. Gathered here in this physical space and linked by wires and internet bits and screens too, we pledge ourselves anew to be servant leaders. In this time of prayer and song and listening, open our eyes and our hearts to the realities of power in the Realm of Shalom. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace. 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

Receiving of New Members

Questions of the Candidates

Do you desire to re-affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?
I do.

Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?
I do.

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?
I do.

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?
I promise, with the help of God.

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?
I promise, with the help of God.

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe in God?	I believe in God.
Do you believe in Jesus?	I believe in Jesus.
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?	I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Question about Participation

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

I promise, with the help of God

Congregational Prayer

We rejoice, O merciful God, with these new people in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the spirit's power to awaken us to new truth, and to inspire us to venture into the fullness of life. We give you thanks that they have been moved to join First Church in Windsor. Help them to live not for themselves, but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Anthem

All Are Welcome

By Marty Haugen

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Children's Moment

Scripture

Luke 18: 9-14

⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

I Corinthians 3: 6-10

⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.

Sermon

Pastor Nicole

“Take Responsibility”

*Hymn

I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing

African American spiritual

Public domain

**I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing, I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing,
I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

**I'm gonna move when the Spirit says move, I'm gonna move when the Spirit says move,
I'm gonna move when the Spirit says move, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

**I'm gonna grow when the Spirit says grow, I'm gonna grow when the Spirit says grow,
I'm gonna grow when the Spirit says grow, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

**I'm gonna love when the Spirit says love, I'm gonna love when the Spirit says love,
I'm gonna love when the Spirit says love, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

**I'm gonna shine when the Spirit says shine, I'm gonna shine when the Spirit says shine,
I'm gonna shine when the Spirit says shine, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

If You Say "Go"

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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**

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
Indian folk melody
Public domain

**I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
no turning back, no turning back.**

**Though no one join me, still I will follow,
Though no one join me, still I will follow,
Though no one join me, still I will follow,
No turning back, no turning back.**

**The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
No turning back, no turning back.**

***Benediction**

Postlude

Pastorale
By Marco Enrico Bossi
