



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

February 5, 2023, at 10 a.m.

Won't You Be My Neighbor: Growing into Good Neighbors

Forgiveness is a Strange Thing

Prelude

Welcome

Song

It's a Beautiful Day

Words and music by Fred Rogers
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**It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood,
A beautiful day for a neighbor.
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?**

**It's a neighborly day in this beautywood,
A neighborly day for a beauty.
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?**

**I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you!
I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you!**

**So let's make the most of this beautiful day,
Since we're together we might as well say:
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?
Won't you be my neighbor?**

**Won't you please, won't you please?
Please won't you be my neighbor?**

Prayer (adapted from Fred Rogers)

Prayer Dear God, you teach us that life's toolbox should always include an ability to forgive and the capacity to let go of resentments. Forgiveness isn't as simple as freeing the person who has done harm; it is also about freeing ourselves from the pain caused by someone else. We know that forgiving someone often takes time and effort. May we continue to never give up on finding and giving forgiveness, as Jesus taught us. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Please make sure to wave to our online community, send a text message of peace to someone, or pass the peace in the chat on Facebook.

Hymn

There Are Many Ways to Say I Love You

Words and music by Fred Rogers

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**There are many ways to say I love you.
There are many ways to say I care about you.
Many ways, many ways, many ways to say I love you.**

**There are many ways to say I love you.
Just by being there when things are sad and scary.
Being there, being there, being there to say I love you.**

**You'll find many ways to say I love you.
You'll find many ways to understand what love is.
Many ways, many ways, many ways to say I love you.**

Children's Moment

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

Were I the Perfect Child of God

Music: Scottish traditional

Words by John L. Bell

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Scripture

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Luke 6: 27-31

²⁷"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“Forgiveness is a Strange Thing”

Anthem

Were I the Perfect Child of God

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Sharing Good Neighbor Sweaters

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Communion Response

I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

African American spiritual

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**I'm gonna eat at the welcome table,
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, allelu.
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table,
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, allelu.**

**I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus,
I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus, allelu.
I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus,
I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus, allelu.**

**I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers,
I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers, allelu.
I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers,
I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers, allelu.**

**I'm gonna feast on milk and honey,
I'm gonna feast on milk and honey, allelu.
I'm gonna feast on milk and honey,
I'm gonna feast on milk and honey, allelu.**

**I'm gonna wade 'cross Jordan River,
I'm gonna wade 'cross Jordan River, allelu.
I'm gonna wade 'cross Jordan River,
I'm gonna wade 'cross Jordan River, allelu.**

**I'm gonna fly all around in heaven.
I'm gonna fly all around in heaven, allelu.
I'm gonna fly all around in heaven,
I'm gonna fly all around in heaven, allelu.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, as we celebrate this sacrament, may we remember the laborers in the fields: the harvesters of the wheat and grapes, the transporters of their yields, those who transform wheat into bread and grapes into juice. Bless their hands and feet as they labor at farms and gardens, in trucks and warehouses. We give thanks for all the ones who prepared the table here today. May the gifts of preparation and hospitality inspire us to extend hospitality to the strangers among us, as Jesus taught us. Amen.

Announcements

Online Giving

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

Anthem

Let Us Break Bread Together

Arranged by Michael Ryan

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Played by the Bell Choir

Benediction

Benediction Response

It's Such a Good Feeling

Words and music by Fred Rogers

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**It's such a good feeling to know you're alive
It's such a happy feeling you're growing inside
And when you wake up ready to say
I think I'll make a snappy new day
It's such a good feeling, a very good feeling
The feeling you know that we're friends**

Postlude

Miniature #13

By Herbert Howells

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