



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

February 12, 2023, at 10 a.m.

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

Celebrating Black History Month

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)

Dear God, we believe that when we say You love us, You love that part of us that knows that life is far more than anything we can ever see, hear, or touch; that deep part of us that allows us to stand for those things, without which humankind cannot survive. Love that conquers hate. Peace that rises triumphant over war. And justice that proves more powerful than greed. So, in all that we do in all of our lives, we pray for the strength and the grace to make those choices that will allow us and our neighbors to become the best of who we are. 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.

Please bring up your Good Neighbor sweaters.

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.**

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

Scripture

Philemon 1: 1-25

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. ²²One thing more—prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you. ²³Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. ²⁵The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Sermon

Rev. Cleo Graham Pastor, Faith Congregational Church, UCC in Hartford
“Sending my Own Heart”

Anthem

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)
Words and music by John Newton, Chris Tomlin, and Louie Giglio
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Sharing Good Neighbor Sweaters

Lauren Dube-Scott

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

We Are Standing on Holy Ground
Words and music by Geron Davis
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**We are standing on Holy Ground,
And I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now.
We are standing in his presence on Holy Ground.**

Announcements

Lauren Dube-Scott

Online Giving

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

Hymn

Go Down, Moses
African American spiritual
Public domain

**When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go,
oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go.
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.**

**No more in bondage shall they toil, let my people go,
nor spill their blood on Egypt's soil, let my people go.
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.**

**Oh, let us all from bondage flee, let my people go,
and let us all in Christ be free, let my people go.
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.**

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

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

African American spiritual

Arranged by Jane Frogley

Today we welcome Rev. Cleo Graham, Pastor at Faith Congregational Church, UCC in Hartford, as our guest preacher. Rev. D. Cleo Graham formerly served as the Associate Pastor and Teacher at Beneficent Congregational Church in Providence, Rhode Island. She also served as the church's Community Minister and Sabbatical Pastor. Before joining Beneficent Church, Rev. Graham served as Co-Pastor and Teacher at Hope Congregational Church in East Providence, Rhode Island. Pastor Cleo also served as the Affiliated Protestant Chaplain at Roger Williams University. Pastor Cleo is a trailblazer as the first Person of Color ordained in the R.I. Conference United Church of Christ (2013).

Rev. Graham earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Adelphi University. She received her Master's degree in Teaching from Columbia University Teachers College and a Certificate in Advanced Nursing from the University of R.I. She became Rhode Island's first Person of Color to achieve the American Board Certification in 1995 as a Family Nurse Practitioner. She earned 18 undergraduate credits from the Zion Bible College in Rhode Island.

In 2012, Rev. Graham received her Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School. She received the North American Bible Study Award for Christian Education. Trained as a Racial Justice Facilitator, Rev. Graham is sought out for leading Retreats, Preaching, and Speaking on various topics.

She has been married to her college sweetheart for forty-four years, and they are proud of their two adult sons and enjoy three grandchildren. They enjoy studying genealogy and uncovering their family histories dating back to the 1700s. Her family legacy includes five generations of pastors, deacons, and evangelists. She finds God's liberating unifying truth lifesaving. Rev. Cleo is the author of the book "From Mess to Message."