

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
and
Christ United Methodist Church**



**Unified Worship – October 20, 2024
Stewardship Consecration Sunday
Worship Leader – Master**

Gathering Music

Greeting and Announcements

Transition to Worship and Opening Prayer

Prelude

****Call to Worship**

One: We, who are thirsty, long for water.

Many: God will cause water to spring up for us.

One: We, who are weak, long for strength.

Many: God will strengthen our hearts and bodies.

One: We, who are broken, long for restoration.

Many: God will bring the pieces of our world together.

One: Let us Imagine Together:

Many: A World Made Whole

****Opening Hymn****“God of Grace and God of Glory”***NCH #436*

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Children's Time**Sending Song****Jesus Loves You***NCH #327 (adapted)*

Jesus loves you! This we know, for the Bible tells us so.
 Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
 Yes, Jesus loves you! Yes, Jesus loves you!
 Yes, Jesus loves you! The Bible tells us so!

Scripture

Isaiah 35

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Choral Anthem

“As the Deer”

Nystrom/Wagner

Sermon

**Hymn of Commitment

“Here I Am, Lord”

UMH #593

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a-lone.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat-is-fied.

1.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
Who will bear my light to them?
I have wept for love of them. They turn a-way.
I will speak my word to them.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
I will give my life to them.

2. *Refrain (Harmony)*
Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord.
Whom shall I send?
Whom shall I send?

Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the
night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Spoken Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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/trespases as we forgive those who sin/trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

We Offer our Gifts and Dedicate our Pledges

Offertory

"We Sing to You, O God"
Anthony Storle, soloist

by Gracia Grindal

**Presentation and Doxology

UMH #94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Prayer of Dedication

God of repair and restoration, we are so grateful for all the miracles that you have given us- our lives, our livelihoods, and this community of faith. We pray that you would use these gifts to continue making miracles. Amen.

**Hymn

"Dream God's Dream"

SP&P 120

♩ = 69

D C G D C G D Em7

Dream God's dream! Ho-ly

D/F# G Bm7

Spir - it help us dream of a world where there is

F#m7 G Em7 A A/G

jus - tice and where ev - 'ry one is free to

D/F# G Bm7 A

build and grow and love, and to sim - ply have e -

G D/F# Em7 Asus A7 D

-nough. The world will change, when we dream God's dream.

C G D C G D C G

1. I'm dream-ing_ of a world where the col - or of one's
2. I'm dream-ing_ of the call God is of - fer-ing to
3. I'm dream-ing_ of the way that I want my life to

D C Em7 D

skin will mean less than_ what's with - in the per - son's heart.
me, how to use my_ en - er - gy and my best gifts;
go. I've got hope and_ I've got goals I'd like to meet.

C G/B D C

A world where wa - ter's clean and where
to do the work of Christ to say
I'm reach - ing for the stars, but I

G D Em7

air is safe to breathe. And ev - 'ry_ chi - ld
God, please use my life to spread Your_ heal - ing
won't for - get the scars of Christ who_ died to

D/F# Em7 G Asus D

born has e - nough to eat. dream.
love and to live Your truth.
show that the dream's for all.

D Coda

****Benediction**

Postlude (*please be seated for the postlude*)