



**New Hampshire Conference  
United Church of Christ**

**2020 Annual Meeting Worship Service  
Sunday, October 18, 2020**

# THE LITURGY FOR MORNING WORSHIP

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**Prelude: “Quartal Courante” by Jason Shelton** (Used with permission. All rights reserved)  
*Performed by Abby Charbeneau, South Congregational Church, Concord*

## **Greeting and Welcome**

*The Rev. Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister, New Hampshire Conference, UCC*

## **Call to Worship**

*Annual Meeting Worship Planning Team*

**All:**            ***You, living God, have always meant to crown us with your steadfast love. It is this love that does not forget us; but forgives, satisfies and renews our strength. Without your love, the wind passes over us and leaves us unknown. Today we humbly ask you for transformation and renewal through this love.***

Voice 1:        We receive from you what is good and acceptable

Voice 2:        We remember that although we are many, we are one body.

Voice 3:        We strive to let go of our temptation for legalism and let our love be genuine.

Voice 4:        Though we see struggle ahead, we will not lag in zeal, but will be ardent in spirit, holding fast to what is good.

Voice 5:        We trust that you will make our body strong.

**All:**            ***We trust that you shall make us like watered gardens – springs that shall never fail. Thanks be to you, O God!***

## **Prayers of Lament**

*Spiritual Care Chaplains Concord VNA, Spiritual Care Chaplain Concord Hospital, and Spiritual Care Chaplains Havenwood Heritage Heights*

## **Praying into the Breach / Prayers of the People**

*Rev. Dr. Lynn Wickberg, Westmoreland United Church, UCC*

## **Scripture: Isaiah 58:9-12 (NRSV)**

*Horton Center Campers: Breanne Peters, Chris Mcbride, Isabelle Benson, and Tucker Magrauth*

## **Scripture: Luke 13:10-17 (NRSV)**

*Cora Shaklee, Brookline Community Church*

**Hymn: "Savior God Above" New Century Hymnal #602**

(Tune: "Come Sunday" from BLACK, BROWN, AND BEIGE by Duke Ellington. © 1946 (renewed) by G. Schirmer Inc. (ASCAP). Used with permission. All rights reserved.)

*Performed by Ashley Morse, Musician, Westmoreland United Church, UCC*

Refrain:

Savior God above, God almighty, God of love,  
please look down and see my people through.

Verse 1:

I believe that God put sun and moon up in the sky,  
I don't mind the gray skies, 'cause they're just clouds passing by.

Verse 2:

Heaven is a goodness time, a brighter light on high.  
Love your neighbor as yourself, and have a brighter by and by.

Verse 3:

I believe God is now, was then, and always will be.  
With God's blessing we can make it through eternity.

**Sermon "Sunday Delight"**

*The Rev. Michael W. Caine, Old First Reformed United Church of Christ in Philadelphia*

**Prayer of Confession**

*Rev. Gail Doktor, Jackson Community Church*

**All:            *Bearer of Kindness and Justice,***

***We see firsthand the damage that disease, racism, and violence can cause. We know the anger and grief that is their wake. We acknowledge broken lives, torn families, towns and cities bent under systems of injustice. If we are being honest, we wonder if anything beautiful or good can come from such sorrow. Today, we ask for your bread in our lives and pray for your restoration blessing that, alone, can release the hold of sin. Open our mouths with words that denounce cruelty. Loose our tongues so they may savor the poured out forgiveness of your blood. Set the deadwood of our souls on fire with the baptism of your Holy Spirit. Then, the breaches can be repaired and the violence of our streets be rebuilt as pathways of peace. In Christ's name, Amen.***

## OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Pastor, Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC*



We ask that you consider accessing our [online donation portal](#) to make a contribution to support the mission and ministries of the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ. You may also mail your contributions to NHCUCC, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH 03275, with a memo noting this is your Annual Meeting offering.

### The Call to Give

#### The Gathering of the Offerings: “They’ll Know We Are Christians”

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*Performed by the Horton Summer 2020 Staff*

### Prayer of Dedication

#### SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*The Rev. Gordon M. Rankin, Conference Minister, New Hampshire Conference, UCC, and  
The Rev. Paige Besse-Rankin, Pastor, First Parish Church, Congregational, United Church of Christ, Dover, NH.*

### Invitation to the Table

#### Prayer of Consecration

Let us pray:

Voice 1: Creator God, you have made the bread; Christ the Redeemer you changed it and you, Holy Spirit will bind our lives as we eat it.

Voice 2: Creator God, you have made the vine; Christ the Redeemer, you have changed it and you, Holy Spirit, will bind our hearts as we drink of it.

**ALL** *(masked or virtually) How grateful we are! We are ready to be renewed. In the presence of our friends whom we used to stand by in church and the many whom we stand by virtually, we say, “As we eat and drink together, let us imagine God’s body and blood restoring us.” Amen*

## Words of Institution

One: We remember Jesus letting the old rules fall to the ground. We remember the scandal of his healing; the strength of his compassion. We remember how he took bread, blessed and broke it – and gave it to them. He gave it even to the calculators and to those who ruin and wreck the unity of the body. He said, “This is my body. Eat of it and become a re-builder of God’s kin-dom.” Take eat and be strengthened.” ***Those gathered take and eat.***

One: We remember Jesus turning the water into wine so the wonder and laughter of love could go on. We remember how the sky darkened as he bled upon the cross. We believed all had failed. But he had already shed his blood in that upper room as he worked to forge a new covenant rooted in the law of love. He said, “Drink of this, all of you. It is a new blood covenant of forgiveness. Love has swallowed all sin – remember this.” ***Those gathered take and drink.***

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

### The Lord’s Prayer (*trespasses*)

*Horton Center Campers: Ryder Hicks, Jacqueline Young, Evie McBride, Tucker Magrath, Elena Maccini, Oliver Swenson, Breanne Peters, Emma Swenson, Abby Adaszik, Chris McBride, Leif Magrath, Tatyanna Wunschel, Katharine Moseley, and Andrew Nielsen*

### Anthem: “All Are Welcome” by Marty Haugen

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*Performed by the New Hampshire Conference Statewide Virtual Choir, under the direction of Billy Carleton Jr, Choir Director, Jackson Community Church and with accompaniment from Alan Labrie, Music Director, Jackson Community Church.*

## Benediction

*The Rev. Gordon Rankin and The Rev. Michael W. Caine*

Michael: May God guide you continually. May God satisfy your needs in parched places. May God raise you up like springs of water with waters that never fail.

Gordon: And when the Prophets voice calls you into the streets to repair, restore and renew, may you say...

***All: “And then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? And I said, “Here I am, send me!”***

### Postlude: “Gavotte from Suite for Piano” by Clif Hardin

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*Performed by Abby Charbeneau. South Congregational Church, Concord*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **The Annual Meeting Statewide Virtual Choir**

Jennifer A. Adams, United Church of Christ, Keene; Steve Allbee, Jackson Community Church; Ben Allen, First Parish Congregational Church, UCC, East Derry; Debbie Gline Allen, First Parish Congregational Church, UCC, East Derry; Anne Ballam, First Congregational Church, Haverhill; Judith Botsford, Jackson Community Church; Beverly Caldon, United Church of Christ, Keene; Billy Carleton, Jr., Choir Director, Jackson Community Church; Dave Chase, Federated Church of Marlborough; Jayne Chase, Federated Church of Marlborough; Deb Degan, Deering Community Church; Judy Dobson, Hampstead Congregational Church; Indulis Gleske, Madbury United Church of Christ; Dorothy Graaskamp, Congregational Church, Atkinson; Darlene Graczyk, Congregational Church, Atkinson; Rev. Emilia Halstead, First Congregational Church, Concord; Jeanette Heidmann, Jackson Community Church; Betsy Kelly, Congregational Church of Laconia; Alan Labrie, Accompaniment, Music Director, Jackson Community Church; Clare Long, Jackson Community Church; Ted Matthews, Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, Hanover; Cindy Mower, Union Congregational Church, Peterborough; Sandra Nkenchor, Madbury United Church of Christ; Nancy Pierpont, Madbury United Church of Christ; Meg Phillips, Jackson Community Church; Jean Prior, United Church of Christ, Keene; Kim Ridley, Congregational Church, Atkinson; Lynn Rockwell, Chester Congregational – Baptist Church; Debra Sawyer, Hampstead Congregational Church; Paul Scott, Chester Congregational – Baptist Church; Beth Spaulding, First Congregational Church, UCC, Hopkinton; Sandi Straus, Madbury United Church of Christ; Rev. Nancy Talbott, Congregational Church of North Barnstead; John Torrey, Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, Hanover; Joan Virga, St. Anne Church, Hampstead; Bart Wetherbee, Congregational Church, Atkinson; Rev. Dr. Lynn Wickberg, Westmoreland United Church, UCC; Anne Williams, Congregational Church, Atkinson; Robert Owen Williams, Community Church of Christ, Franconia; Kate Wishard, Jackson Community Church; Cindy Woolley, United Church of Christ, Keene.

### **The Annual Meeting Worship Planning Committee**

Ann Desrochers, Rev. Gail Doktor, Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight, Rev. Deborah Knowlton, Rev. Gordon Rankin, Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, and Rev. Dr. Lynn Wickberg.

### **The Annual Meeting Planning Committee**

Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight (*Chair*), Rev. Gail Doktor, Rev. Carolyn Keilig, Mr. Bruce Kinney, Rev. Deborah Knowlton, Rev. Gordon Rankin, Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, and Rev. Dr. Lynn Wickberg. Cindy Bradley and Ann Desrochers (*Support Staff*).

### **Credits**

Special thanks to Mr. James Allan, Mr. Timothy Griffin, and Mr. Timothy Hughes for sharing their technology expertise in the editing and production of our first ever virtual Annual Meeting Worship Service.

### **Liturgy**

Many thanks to Rev. Maren Tirabassi, *Gifts from Many Cultures*, and the *Iona Wee Worship Book* for inspiring the Call to Worship and Sacrament of Communion liturgies and to Alan Labrie, Music Director, Jackson Community Church for providing the “Music Freewrite in C” background music tracks.