

CELEBRATING THE SABBATH  
Sixth Sunday after Easter

May 17, 2020 at 10 o'clock



*Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All*

*Our world has changed immensely in the last few weeks but amid the upheaval and distress, there are reasons to believe we can emerge from the crisis with some human qualities enhanced.*

Matthew Syed, British journalist

PRELUDE

*Berceuse*

Louis Vierne

SHARING OUR WELCOME VIRTUALLY

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY

Bridget Stevens

*Iowa, Nebraska & South Dakota Conferences, UCC*

WE COME TO WORSHIP

One: When we feel isolated and alone, O God, your word comes to us:

**Many: I will not leave you orphaned.**

One: When we face an uncertain future, the Bible reminds us:

**Many: We walk by faith, not by sight.**

One: When we are scared and anxious, we hear your whisper,

**Many: Be not afraid, for I am with you.**

One: We come to this time of worship remembering the promises of our God,  
strengthened in hope and saturated with holy Love.

**All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Lynn Bujnak (scripture references: John 14:18a, II Cor. 5:7, Isaiah 43:5)*

HYMN:

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

[Click here to see hymn](#)

Join as you are able!

**Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled:  
to God all praise and glory.**

**Our God is never far away, but through all grief distressing,  
an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.  
As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:  
to God all praise and glory.**

## OPENING PRAYER

**Creator and sustaining God, author of our souls,  
you made the world in beauty,  
you restore all things in glory through Jesus Christ.  
We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured  
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,  
a new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in the form of justice, love, and peace,  
to the glory of your eternal name. Amen.**

## A MOMENT FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Lauren Dube

## ANTHEM

*With a Voice of Singing*  
First Church Virtual Choir

Martin Shaw

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 17: 22-31

Glen MacLeod

## INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S GUEST PREACHERS

Erica Avena

## SERMON:

*Things change. God doesn't.*

Marilyn Kendrix

Southern New England Bridge Conference Ministers  
The Reverends Kent Siladi, Marilyn Kendrix, and Don Remick

## A TIME OF 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## RESPONDING WITH OUR GIFTS

Offertory

*Chorale Prelude on "Mit Freuden Zart"*

Thomas R. Pearce

To Give a Virtual Offering Now: <http://www.whfirstchurch.org/donate/give>

Doxology, Words: Hymnal, No. 47; Tune: Hymnal, No. 46

**Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;**

## HYMN:

*How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely*  
Join as you are able!

[Click here to see hymn](#)

**How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place;  
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.  
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;  
and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.**

In your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day  
is better than a thousand if I from you should stray.  
I'd rather keep the entrance and claim you as my Lord  
than revel in the riches in the ways of sin afford.

A sun and shield forever are you, O God most high;  
you shower us with blessings no good will you deny.  
The saints, your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go,  
and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Allegro, from the Organ Concerto No. 15*

Johann Walther



Image from "Eastertide Service 2020"  
(A worship service created by the Council of Conference Ministers)