

CELEBRATING THE SABBATH
Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021 at 10 o'clock



*We are all called to be
mothers of God – for God
is always waiting to be born.*

Meister Eckart
13th century German mystic

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

Edward Broughton

SHARING OUR WELCOME VIRTUALLY

WE COME TO WORSHIP

**The God of heaven has made a home on earth,
Christ dwells among us and is one with us.
The highest in all creation lives among the least,
Christ journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.
Come now all who thirst and drink the water of life.
Come now all who hunger and be filled with good things.
Come now all who seek and be warmed by the fire of love.**

Iona Abbey Book of Worship

HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

[Click here to see hymn](#)

Join as you are able!

**God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.**

**Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for our salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore.**

OPENING PRAYER

**For the freshness of this new day, thanks be to you, O God.
For morning's gift of clarity, its light like the first day's dawn
thanks be to you.**

**In this newborn light let us see afresh.
In this gateway onto what has never been before
let our souls breathe hope
for the earth
for the creature
for the human family.
Let our souls breathe hope.**

John Philip Newell

A MOMENT FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Lauren Dube

ANTHEM *Lift Thine Eyes, from "Elijah"* Felix Mendelssohn
The First Church Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON [Psalm 1](#) Ray Epps
[John 15:9-17](#) Susan Izard

SERMON *Encircled in Love* Susan Izard

SOLO *Be Thou My Vision*
Margaret Izard, soloist
Daniel Baer, pianist

MEET THE CONFIRMANDS Emily O'Keefe

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 *Arabesque No. 1 in E Major* Claude Debussy

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A check to the church office is also effective. Send the check to:
First Church, 12 South Main St., West Hartford, CT 06107

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

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

HYMN *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* [Click here to see hymn](#)
Join as you are able!

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love:
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Improvisation on "Ode to Joy"* Jim Boratko