

CELEBRATING THE SABBATH Juneteenth and Father's Day

June 20, 2021 at 10 o'clock



*How distinguished, in the course of human events is that people,
who have all the means of happiness and true liberty within themselves!*

--The Rev. Nathan Perkins July 23, 1812 "Fast Sermon" pp. 5

PRELUDE

Remembering Our Fathers

Lay Your Hand on Us, Lord

Joe Utterback

SHARING OUR WELCOME VIRTUALLY

WE COME TO WORSHIP

The Lord our God is great.

The Lord is worthy of our praise.

Come; let us remember the great things God has done for us.

Let us not neglect to teach our children the greatness of God.

Let us not forget our past and those who have gone before us.

We remember our ancestors, our history: we remember Africa, the Old World, the New World; and we name our future today.

May we be lifted from fear to faith,

with open hearts in gratitude for God's mercy.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/juneteenth-day-worship-resources>, adapted

HYMN #590 (4 VERSES)

Kum ba Yah

[Click here to see hymn](#)

The First Church Choir

Ray Epps, Liturgist

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, we come to worship you today with open hearts and open minds. We want to hear and receive what you have to say to us in this service. Speak to us today as you spoke to those who went before us. Tell us the stories of your wonders and greatness. We are ready to hear them. Remind us once again of your grace and love. Help us teach your goodness to our children and the next generation. Amen.

A TIME FOR COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS

Jennifer deSimas
Shari Cantor
Dottie Selden Stone
Adrienne Billings-Smith

Director JP Webster Library
Mayor, Town of West Hartford
Goodman family
Founder, Concerned Parents of Color, West Hartford
& member, Civilian Police Review Board

ANTHEM

United in Song
The First Church Choir

Paul Halley

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Ezra 9:5-6](#)

Jimmy Quinn

SERMON

The Legacy

Erica Avena

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.

HYMN #442

We Are Walking

[Click here to see hymn](#)

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on SIYAHAMBA

Questions for reflection:

- How have the negative legacies in our country of slave-holding, gun violence, and addictions had an impact on you and the people in your sphere?
- In 1812, Rev. Nathan Perkins asked the congregation to fast and pray together in order to effect change. What have you found to be effective ways of confronting systemic problems that are not of your own making?

11:30am Dedication of Unity Green