



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Blessing While Bleeding”

Trinity Sunday

June 7, 2020

10:30 a.m. Virtual Service

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship
and relevant messages deepen spirituality
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

Our Church's Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator
Sue Sackett, Custodian
Nicole Finney, Child Care
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Judy Nielsen, Organist
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist

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Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ!

*As you look over the bulletin, please notice that you are invited to read aloud **bold** text, and an asterisk (*) indicates to please stand, as you are able. Our hymns are not announced, but are printed in the bulletin, so feel free to locate them ahead of time.*

Helpful worship notes and information on the church can be found in the brochure by the hymnals.

Guests and visitors – a special welcome! Please fill out a “Welcome” card (in the pew pocket) and put it in the offering plate so we may send you a small gift.

GREETING

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Psalms teach us that lament is a powerful form of prayer, where we share in collective grief and lift that collective grief up to God. The biblical form of lament begins with grief, but then moves towards praise and trust that God will bring about healing and change. It is in this spirit of lament that this service is written.

BELLS/CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Upon the murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Aubery and so many others, we grieve.

Many: God, have mercy.

One: For the systemic racism that infects our country and our hearts, we weep.

Many: Christ, have mercy.

One: For those who have lost their lives due to Covid-19, especially for our black and brown skinned siblings, who have been disproportionately affected by this disease, we grieve.

Many: God, have mercy.

One: For our country, which is rocked by hatred and fear, we weep.

Many: Christ, have mercy.

One: We are one body, all connected with one another, and when one part of the body hurts, we all hurt.

Many: And so, we grieve with our black and brown skinned siblings. We see you, know you, and love you.

One: God, have mercy on us all. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #101

(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)

“Comfort, Comfort O My People”

*COLLECT PRAYER

One: Let us pray

Many: God of justice, we come to you with heavy hearts, hurting for the racial injustices of this world. We ask that you gather us together in spirit, that our collective grief might lead us to action so that your just peace may finally be on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 26:26-30 NRSV

One: Words from the past, made new for us today.

Many: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

“Blessing While Bleeding”

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING MOMENT

Please give what you can, by mail or through prayers.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart hartacre3@aol.com

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

One: Please join me in prayer.

Many: Beloved God, we know that systemic racism causes all of us to have implicit bias. It has put the sin of racism into all of us. And so, we humbly confess and ask forgiveness for the times when we have supported racist policies in our families, schools, communities, and government. We confess that we have used our words and actions, even unintentionally, to harm our black and brown skinned siblings. We confess to our silences, and to the times when we have not used the power that we have to support our black and brown skinned neighbors. God, we know that we have a long way to go. Forgive us for those times when we give up or turn away from racial injustice due to tiredness or frustration. For we know that our neighbors of color do not have that luxury. Grant us the grace, oh God, to learn how to do better. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Dear ones, God knows your hearts. God knows that you are guided by love of God and neighbor. God also knows that systematic racism builds implicit bias into our hearts and minds without our consent, and that it is an evil we seek to eradicate. Therefore, God sent Jesus to help restore, reconcile, forgive and guide us. So do not lose hope and do not be afraid! God forgives you and gives you path of change to follow.

Many: Thanks be to God.

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Glory be to you, O Lord.
Blessed is the one who comes,
Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

**Many: We thank you, God, for inviting us to, and nurturing us at, this table.
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and lead us to be
a blessing to everyone in our community; through Jesus Christ our
Savior. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN #476

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful” (sung once)

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful
In the Lord, I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

BELLS/CHIMES

POSTLUDE

“Happy Trails... Until We Meet Again”

- Unless otherwise listed all hymns and responses come from the New Century Hymnal

SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – John Miller-Purrenhage

Musician – Katie Miller-Purrenhage

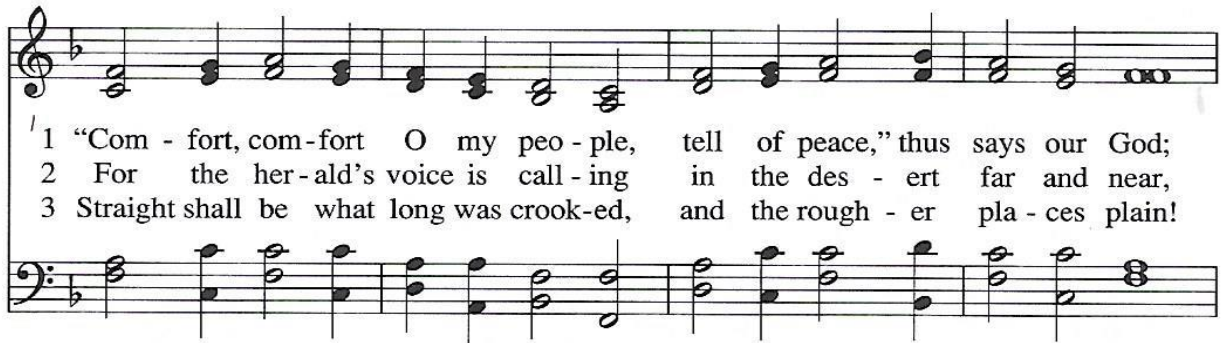
Tech. Support – Emily Miller-Purrenhage

Comfort, Comfort O My People

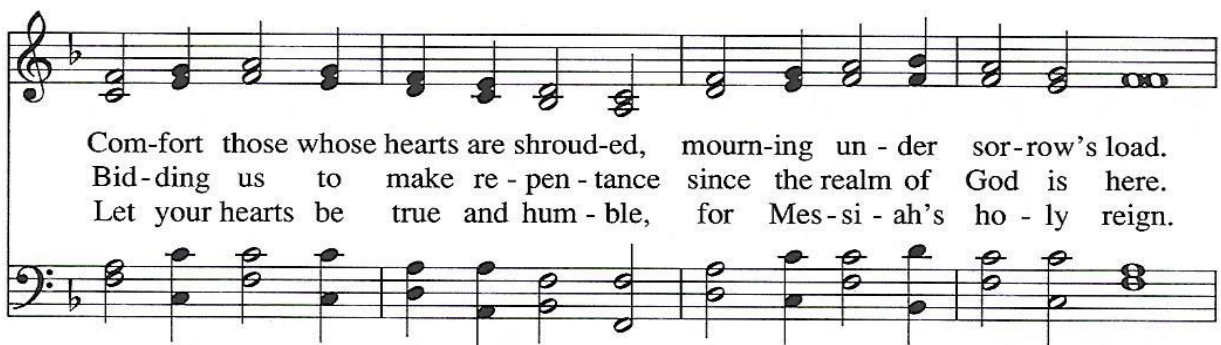
Isa. 40:1-8

Johannes Olearius, 1671

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.



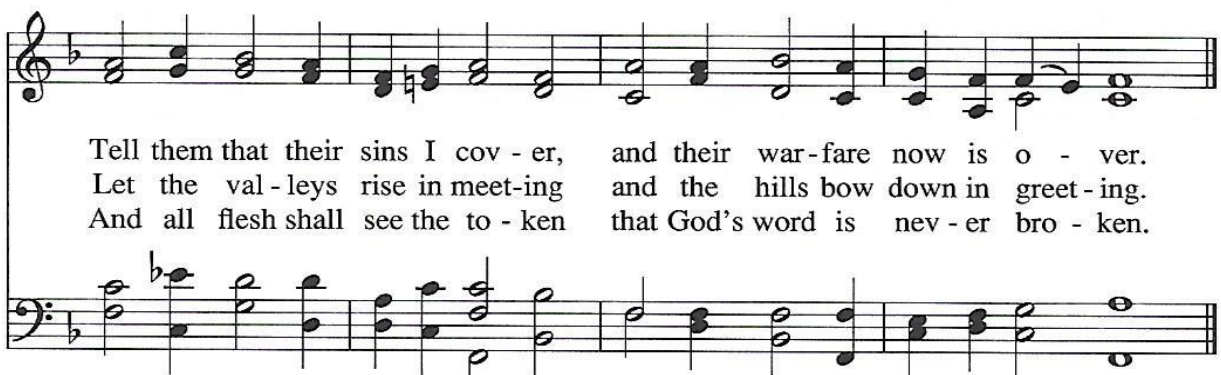
1 "Com - fort, com-fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;
 2 For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!



Com-fort those whose hearts are shroud-ed, mourn-ing un - der sor-row's load.
 Bid-ding us to make re - pen - tance since the realm of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes-si - ah's ho - ly reign.



Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;
 For God's glo - ry ev - er-more shall be known o'er all the world;



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver.
 Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
 liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All

finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing - ing?
 Love com - mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?
 friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing - ing?
 things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing - ing?