

Roxbury
Congregational Church
A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
We Are a Community Seeking to Share God's Love!



- Jeanne Steers

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The Congregation Gathered (remotely) for Worship
Physically Distanced – Spiritually Connected

August 9, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

God Gathers Us in Community

We ask all to have to have their computer mics on Mute mode during the service.

Preludes

Sandra Kleisner, Piano

Virtual Ringing of the Meetinghouse Bell

Words of Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Prayer Concerns

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you!

greet one another likewise in Christian friendship and peace.

Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: Our lives are in the care of God.

People: God has given us abundance and hope.

Leader: This day we have come to praise and thank God for all that God has done for us.

People: We gather to celebrate God's love and to offer our lives in service.

Leader: Come, let us open our hearts to the Lord!

People: Let us rejoice in God's goodness and love.

Hymn "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" Verses 1 & 2

GOD

6 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1. Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
2. Our God is nev - er - far a - way, but through all grief dis -
3. Then all my glad - some way a - long, I sing a - loud your
4. Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name give God all praise and

a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of
tress - ing, an ev - er pres - ent help and stay, our peace and
prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song my voice un -
glo - ry; let all who own God's power pro - claim a - loud the

our sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm my soul is filled and
joy and bless - ing. As with a moth - er's ten - der hand, God
wea - ried rais - es. Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, both
won - drous sto - ry! Cast each false i - dol from its throne, for

ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stilled: to God all praise and glo - ry.
gent - ly leads the cho - sen band: to God all praise and glo - ry.
soul and bod - y bear your part: to God all praise and glo - ry.
Christ is Lord, and Christ a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry.

WORDS: Johann J. Schütz, 1675; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1864, alt.
MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesänge*, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906

MIT FREUDEN ZART
87.87.887

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Assurance of God's Forgiving Love

God Speaks with Us

Responsive Reading Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

¹O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

²**Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.**

³Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

⁴**Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.**

⁵Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

⁶**O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

¹⁶When he summoned famine against the land, and broke every staff of bread,

¹⁷**he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.**

¹⁸His feet were hurt with fetters, his neck was put in a collar of iron;

¹⁹**until what he had said came to pass, the word of the Lord kept testing him.**

²⁰The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free.

²¹**He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his possessions,**

²²to instruct his officials at his pleasure, and to teach his elders wisdom.

⁴⁵**Praise the Lord!**

Sermon Scripture Matthew 14:22-33

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the

water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Musical Meditation

Sandra Kleisner

Morning Message

Rev. David F. Peters

God Listens as We Respond

Pastoral, Silent Prayer and Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

"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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

Offering

Roxbury Church's life and ministry is dependent on your generosity. You can donate online by going to roxburychurch.org/give or you can mail your donation (made out to Roxbury Church to 24 Church Street, Roxbury, CT 06783.

Thank you for your consideration.

Offertory Music

Doxology

Hymnal # 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; praise Him above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

or Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

We Depart to Serve God in Our Daily Lives

Hymn "Here I Am Lord " vs. 1 & 2

452

Here I Am, Lord

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo- ple cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo- ple's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them, they turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro- vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

WORDS: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981
 MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; harm. James Snyder, 1994

HERE I AM, LORD
 77.74 w. refrain

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Harmony

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the

night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

hold your peo-ple in my heart. heart.
 heart, in my heart.
 heart,in my heart.

Benediction and Response

Postlude

Virtual Coffee Hour including Announcements Follows

We welcome especially our guests online this morning! If you do not have a church home, we invite you to consider the Roxbury Church.

We invite you to sign our guest book at <https://tinyurl.com/rccguestbook>

There are resources for Children on the Church's website (www.roxburychurch.org)

Looking for bible study resources? Just go to the Church's website and click on the NURTURE

To Keep in Our Thoughts and Prayers

We remember in prayers their families and loved ones as well.

Jean Neff, Terry Alfson, Diane Meade, Des Desmond,
Pat Fraley, Thomas, Stan,

Those affected by or fearful because of COVID-19,
Those feeling uneasy following the extended power outage
The healing of the nation and issues of racial justice and equality
Those dealing with medical issues

Prayers for our Mission Partner:
Emergency USA Fund of the UCC

*Please let the church office know of anyone you would like
added to this list. It can be an illness, death or celebration.*

Supporting and Keeping our Mission Partners in Prayer

This week, we ask you to hold up: Emergency USA Fund of the UCC Each year in the United States hundreds of natural disasters occur. And each year in the United States resettling refugees and new immigrants face large-scale emergencies. Some natural disasters are large enough to make the news, but often dozens of smaller natural disasters escape media attention. The Emergency USA Fund allows UCC Disaster Ministries to respond to both large and small natural and human-caused disasters in all U.S. states and territories. https://unitedchurchofchrist.nationbuilder.com/emergency_usa_fund

Church Notes

Worship in the Coming Weeks

(All is tentative and dependent on health conditions and Newtown Health Dept. guidance)

Sunday Public Worship will be live-streamed every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. during August on Zoom and Facebook Live, at least, through the 3rd week of August, the 16th.

Sunday, August 23, 30 & September 6: Outdoor Worship on the front lawn of the Chapel.

All services will also be Virtual on our Zoom Channel and Facebook Live.

(For August 23 & 30 will be also welcoming virtually members of the United Church of Christ, in Southbury as their Interim Pastor will be on vacation.)

- You are asked to bring your own chair
- You must wear a mask
- You (individuals or household groups) must sit socially distanced from each other (min. 6 feet)
- We ask that you not shake hands, hug or be closer than 6 feet from those who are not from your household.
- The church will not be open for restrooms. (We cannot be cleaning between each use.)
- We will not be singing hymns nor having responsive readings and there will be no social hour following.
- We ask after worship to nod a greeting or wave to one another.

PLEASE do not put the church leadership in the position of having to enforce these!

Lastly, if the health situation worsens or if we note folks disregarding these items, we will go back to virtual worship only.

Helping with Sunday Virtual Worship

If are willing to be a reader, to play or sing, or share a faith story during an August Sunday Virtual Worship Service, please contact Rev. Peters. These can be pre-recorded.

Mindfulness Meditation Group – Saturday mornings

The Mindfulness Meditation Group continues to meet online using Zoom most Saturdays morning at 10:20 a.m. Occasionally, they are meeting in-person, outside at the church, physically distanced. Check out the Church's NURTURE page for links and contact Charlie Stauffacher information. 860-354-1274

Work Projects around the Church Buildings and Grounds

We are grateful to those who have been helping out around the Church buildings and grounds in these days. We are not going to be able to have a Work Day this spring, so we have listed the jobs on the Church's Home page with a sign up.

We are grateful for the projects begun: Raking out and mulching, and planting in the side garden as well inside tasks.

We are in need of person(s) to pick up branches and sticks on the church front lawn and deposit them on the brush pile behind the barn. Please let Rev. Peters know if you can help.

David's Mystery Church Tour – on YouTube

Join David this Thursday, as he brings us to another place on the church grounds to share some history, information and meaning. We have been in the bell tower, inside the organ, on YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/RoxburyCyoutube>

Looking for ways to be helpful and share God's Love?...

- Make a phone call to a neighbor, someone who is older or lives alone to check in on them.
- When at the store, pick up some items for either Daily Bread or the Roxbury Food Pantry. They can be dropped off at Christ Church Parish House Wed. or Fri. mornings. Or for Daily Bread inside the front door of the church. Daily Bread has double the number of clients now.
- If you are healthy and willing to help others with running errands, or some other need, please email Rev. Peters at david@roxburychurch.org.

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Contacts

- For Pastoral Concerns: Rev. David Peters
- For Worship Concerns: Deacon Chair: Mike Wilcox
- For Building issues: Charlie Meade
- Borrowing tables or chairs: Call Church Office and leave a message 355-1978 X2
- Note Church Secretary Summer Hours: Fridays – 9:30 a.m. – 12:30p.m.

Roxbury Congregational Church, UCC

Ministers in the World – Members of the Congregation

The Rev. David F. Peters, Minister	david@roxburychurch.org
Sandra S. Kleisner, Minister of Music	sandy@roxburychurch.org
Nancy Glover, Church Secretary	office@roxburychurch.org
Bruce Rossiter, Custodian	office@roxburychurch.org
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