

Roxbury Congregational Church

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



Celebrating the Ministry of the Laity

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

October 18, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Laity Sunday

"I learned that God was an equal employment employer — that it was possible to experience the divine anywhere you were, anywhere you could see the sun or the moon rise or set, or burn through the fog."

— Anne Lamott Grace (Eventually)

God Gathers Us in Community

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Prayer Concerns

Phil deVries

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you!

greet one another likewise in Christian friendship and peace.

Introit

Sandra Kleisner

Call to Worship

One: God knows us by name, and calls us to follow.

All: The presence of the Lord is with us as we venture out.

One: Just as Moses was led by God's goodness, so are we guided.

All: God's ways are sure and lead the faithful to righteousness.

One: Together let us seek God's leading in Word and in prayer.

All: Let us worship God together!

***Hymn** "Surely the Presence of the Lord"

*= All who are able standing

*We ask that in the name of safety, you not sing but read along
and meditate on the words of the song.*

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place
I can feel His mighty power and His grace
I can hear the brush of angel's wings
I see glory on each face
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

Prayer of Invocation and Confession (in Unison)

Barbara Biafore

Holy God, the mystery of your presence stretches far beyond us,
yet we know you draw near to us in Christ,
walking beside us, guiding us with wisdom, loving us with boundless grace.
Your Spirit encourages us as we follow Christ
and gives us the energy and insight we need to serve you.
Holy God, we are glad to gather in your presence,
to be embraced by your mystery and your mercy.
For we confess we do need your mercy.

We claim to be your people, but we forget to love as you do.
We claim to seek your guidance, but we often turn from your ways.
We ask for your forgiveness, but we fail to forgive as you forgive.
We claim to listen for your Word, but we ignore your wisdom.
Hear us as, in this silence, we offer you our personal confessions:
(A time of silence is kept.)

Forgive us, God of mystery and mercy,
amend who we are and direct who you would have us be
for the sake of Christ, our Savior and Friend.

Assurance of God's Forgiving Love

God Speaks with Us

Responsive Reading Exodus 33:12-19 NRSV

Pat Fraley

12 Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.'

13 Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people."

14 He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

15 And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here.

16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

17 The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."

18 Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray."

19 And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

Musical Meditation "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

Charlie Stauffacher

Sermon Scripture Psalm 46: 1-3,10-11 NRSV

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

God Listens as We Respond

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

David Lincicome

"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."

Call to Offering & Stewardship

Charlie Stauffacher

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**

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** "Open My Eyes That I May See"

We ask that in the name of safety, you not sing but read along and meditate on the words of the song.

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth you have for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unlock and set me free.
Silently now, on bended knee,
ready I wait your will to see;
open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth you send so clear;
and while the message sounds in my
ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now, on bended knee,
ready I wait your will to see;
open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Benediction and Response

Michael Wilcox

Postlude

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***We ask that you greet each other respecting distance guidelines and refrain from shaking hands or hugging.** (We pray for the day when we will be able to do this again...)

Greeting you this morning are Linda and Steve Ross.

Thanks to Charlie Stauffacher who is our "Cantor" this morning.

To Keep in Our Thoughts and Prayers

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

Terry Alfson, Diane Meade,
Des Desmond, Pat Fraley,
Nate, Thomas, Stan, , Jim
Family & Friends of Maya Cointreau

Those affected by or fearful because of COVID-19,
Those affected by the wildfires in the western US,
The healing of the nation amidst political and social polarization
and issues of racial justice and equality
Those dealing with new medical issues

Prayers for this week's Mission Partner:
Connecticut Food Bank

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

Supporting and Keeping our Mission Partners in Prayer

This week, we ask you to hold up: Connecticut Food Bank allows bulk purchasing and receipt of over-stock food stuffs for use in the food pantries across the state. www.ctfoodbank.org

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>

Roxbury Church Notes

Looking an Easy Way to Support YOUR Church?

Then participate in the **Cash for Causes Program**. It is simply easy, and it only costs you the time it takes to see Heidi Neff and purchase a cash card. No EXTRA money!!

Example Your \$100 gets you a full-value \$100 card - (church gets a %)

We have cards available most Sundays or in a few days for: Stop and Shop-6%, Big Y-6%, ShopRite-6%

Major Retailers including: LL Bean-16%, TJ Maxx & HomeGoods-7%, Home Depot-4%, Cabellas-11% Gap / Old Navy-14% and Restaurants, grocery stores across the country...and many more.

See the Kiosk in Fellowship Hall for a complete listing and contact Heidi Neff 860-354-3177 to purchase your card. There is also an online way to purchase and make repeated purchases easy.

Also **Stew Leonard's** Cash Cards are available from Ray Fitch only.

Mindfulness Meditation Group – Saturday mornings

The Mindfulness Meditation Group continues to meet on an alternating schedule of in-person/ outside and online using Zoom Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Check out the Church's NURTURE page for links and contact Charlie Stauffacher information. 860-354-1274

David's Mystery Church Tour – on YouTube

A new edition was posted this past Tuesday. Join Rev. David as he brings us to another place on the church grounds to share some history, information and meaning.

Videos are posted most Thursdays.

On YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/RoxburyCyoutube>

The Church – Where are We Going? - An Invitation for all

You are invited by the Litchfield South Association to join them for a Zoom Presentation by the Founding Dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School on Tuesday, October 20 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Sarah Drummond will speak on the topic: "The Road Ahead – our Church's GPS is in need of recalculating. (A vision for the present and future.)" Given her unique position to see the local church, we feel that it will be a lively and practical discussion and opportunity for learning for all Watch for a Zoom Link in eFaith Matters in the 2issues immediately before.

Worship in the Time of COVID-19

(All is tentative and dependent on health conditions and Newtown Health Dept. guidance:) Effective on October 8, 2020, 50% of capacity of the indoor space or a maximum of 200 people, whichever is smaller, and to 50% capacity for outdoor gatherings (with Masks and Social distancing), with no cap, provided in each case that appropriate safety and social distancing measures shall be employed.

Health Guidance for now and the foreseeable future:

- If you feeling ill or have a temperature above 100.4 within 72 hours, to not attend worship.
- You must wear a mask covering your mouth and nose.
- Upon arriving:
 - You must sanitize their hands.
 - We ask each person to sign in each time you come to worship. (This in case it is needed for contact tracing.)
 - Your temperature will be checked.
- You (individuals or household groups) must sit socially distanced from each other (min. 6 feet) in the unmarked pews.
- 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. In the case of an emergency bathroom need, please use the Handicap/ Gender Neutral bathroom. We ask that you sanitize the restroom including all surfaces touched and used with the spray disinfectant located in the bathroom.
- We will not be singing hymns and there will be no social hour following. Hymnals and Bibles have been removed because of potential cross contamination.
- There will be Offering Plates at each entrance for your pledges and offerings.
- We ask after worship to nod a greeting or wave to one another as you move to your vehicle to leave.
- There will not be a Fellowship / Coffee Hour for the foreseeable future.
- First thing when you get home – wash your hands!

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.

There are pews marked off and are not to be used to create social distance during worship. Members of the same household may sit together but we ask that if you do not live within that household, you sit in another location. We ask as you enter and leave the building, be

conscious of traffic flow, if need be finding another exit (such as out thru Fellowship Hall) so as to not come in close proximity to others.

We are following the guidance provided by our Newtown Health District and the State as we seek to keep everyone safe.

For us that means that for the future an essential part of this church's ministry will be that all services will also be Virtual on our Zoom Channel and Facebook Live.

The Church is open and it never really closed. But to be effective and faithful to our call, let us practice physical distancing, wash our hands, use our sanitizer and continue to be the Body of Christ. We are called to be beacons of light and hope in the midst of the challenge of our time. Essentially, we proclaim God's love for all. – David

Did you know...

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

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

- We have resources for Mental Health on the church's website? click on NURTURE

Roxbury Congregational Church, UCC

Ministers in the World – Members of the Congregation

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