

North Branford Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
The Order of Worship for Sunday, July 12, 2020
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
The Season of the Spirit

Prelude *Come into His Presence* Baird

Gathering

Greetings

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Good morning, Church! Have you ever realized that you're heading in the wrong direction? That the road or path that you picked isn't going to the right destination?

People: Of course! That's when it's time to check the map or the GPS and make a course correction!

Leader: Yes! Without making a change, you'll end up in the wrong place. The same thing happens in our faith lives. God calls us to change, to turn, to repent and follow Him, just like He did with the Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus.

People: Amen! We need that big "you-turn" on life's journey, when we turn to Jesus for salvation.

Leader: That's the best GPS – "God Provides Salvation"!

People: And after the initial "you-turn", we need to listen to God's direction for those smaller "you-turns" that follow - when God often guides us to different ways of thinking, speaking, acting and treating others.

All: Lord, help me to be open to the changes you want to make in me. And then, help me do my part in becoming the person you want me to be! In your name we pray, Amen.

Sung Chorus: Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully. Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Prayer of Invocation & The Lord's Prayer - Together, as one.

Holy Spirit, move in me. Show me the places where I need to repent, to have that change of heart and mind, and then help me take the right path forward. And continue guiding me on that path, so my life day by day becomes more a reflection and expression of Jesus. And when you call me to come alongside someone else as she or he desires change, help me to do so lovingly and without judgement.

And as we have prayed to you, Holy Spirit, we now pray to you, Dear Father, with the words your Son taught us...

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

Hymn of Praise & Preparation *Just as I Am*

Preparing

A Reading from The Old Testament Isaiah 30: 15-21

A Reading from The Gospels Luke 13: 1-5

A Reading from the Epistles 2 Peter 3: 9

The Offertory Invitation

The Gift of Music Wendy Tarry, guitarist

Presenting of our Offerings, Gifts & Tithes (Tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos)

**For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.**

**For God's gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.**

**For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God**

Prayer of Confession and Dedication - Together, as one.

Lord, like Ananias who ministered to Saul, sometimes I am afraid to follow your instructions. Forgive me when I'm hesitant to act, and gently nudge me to be bold. Inspire me with courage and grace to be your instrument, even when it is difficult. And like Saul, help me to embrace the new growth and change that comes with walking with You, removing any scales that block my vision. Thank you for the many gifts you give us, and today especially, we say a special thanks for the gift of forgiveness and for your offer of new life in Christ. Please use our time, talent and resources to share your hope with a world in need, all the while strengthening our personal relationship with you. We dedicate our offerings and very our lives to you, and in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Children's Message

Prayers of & for the People

Prayers of Joy and Concern; Testimonies of God's Work in our Lives
Time of Silence
Pastoral Prayer

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.**

Proclaiming

A Reading from the Book of Acts Acts 9: 1-19

Sermon *Is it Time to Make a "You-turn"?*

Parting

Hymn of Sending Forth *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Call to Service & Benediction

Pastor: As disciples of Christ, we have been graced with Christ's peace,
peace for our own lives, peace to share. And so with great joy, I
gift you the peace of our Lord.

People: As I gift you.

Pastor: Let us now share that peace of Christ with others in our homes, and
by phone, text, or e-mail with those from whom we are physically
apart, and let us carry that peace of Christ with us into this Season
of the Spirit, and into our world, as we together say: **AMEN!**

Postlude *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* Watts

Deacon – Donna Cropley
Worship Leader – Wendy Tarry
Music Director – Kelliann Festa
Accompanist– Rachel Postovoit
Pastor – The Rev. Vance Taylor
Ministers – Our Members!

WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER!

North Branford Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

*Christ-centered Teaching
Scripture-based Preaching
To our neighbors: Outreaching*



ENCOUNTERS IN ACTS: CONVERSIONS THEN AND NOW
(Acts 9)

July 12, 2020

Hymn 1: *Just as I Am*

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
Oh, Lamb of God, I come, I come!
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fighting's and fears within, without,
Oh, Lamb of God, I come, I come!
- 3 Just as I am, your love unknown
has broken every barrier down,
now to be yours, and yours alone,
Oh, Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Hymn 2: *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

- 1 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew
that I may love the way you love
and do what you would do.
- 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with you I will one will,
to do and to endure.
- 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
stir in me one desire,
but every earthly part of me
may glow with holy fire.
- 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
of your eternity.

Psalm 32 - **The Joy of God's Forgiveness.**

- 1** Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- 2** Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- 3** While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- 4** For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up^[a] as by the heat of summer.
- 5** Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
- 6** Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress,^[b] the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.
- 7** You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
- 8** I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- 9** Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.
- 10** Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.
- 11** Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

