

North Branford Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
The Order of Worship for Sunday, March 29, 2020
The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Prelude *I Love to Tell the Story* Hanley/Fischer

Gathering

Greetings

*Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Good morning, Church. We live in unsettling times; sometimes it might feel like our “life-boats” are being rocked by waves of confusion and unpredictability.

People: Lord, whisper to the storms, “Peace, be still”.

Leader: We are buffeted by worry, and we are deluged with information.

People: Lord, whisper to the chaos, “Peace, be still”.

Leader: We feel anxiety flood our hearts at moments, and sense the chilling wind of fear.

People: Lord, whisper to our souls, “Peace, be still”.

All: God, we cry out to you today for peace in the midst of the noise of these challenging times. Help us to be at peace with you through Jesus, to experience your peace and calm in our everyday living, and to be peacemakers to those around us. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

**Sung Chorus (tune: Stuttgart) Living water, never ending/
quench the thirst and flood the soul./ Well-spring, Source of life
eternal/drench our dryness, make us whole**

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

Holy Spirit, calm and quiet me; remind me that your fruit contains peace and gentleness. (Gal. 5:22) Give me the patience to wait for the “still small” voice of God, and the faith to listen. When I feel restless, anxious and unsettled, ground me in the peace of Christ, a peace that surpasses all understanding.

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 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

Preparing

A Reading from The Old Testament 1 Kings 19: 11-13 (OT p.255)

A Reading from The Epistles Philippians 4: 4-7 (NT p.154)

The Offertory Invitation

*Presenting of our Offerings, Gifts & Tithes (tune: Old Hundredth)

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!

* Prayer of Dedication - Together, as one.

Loving God, thank you for the gift of peace. Open our hearts to accept and to cherish that gift. We are grateful that in a time of difficulty, we still experience so many blessings. For our church community, for food, for family, for shelter, for your love, we say thanks. Show us how to be a blessing to others and to share your love and peace even when we can’t be together in person, remembering we can always be together in spirit. We dedicate these offerings and 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

**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.**

Parting

Deacon – Joanne Palmieri
Liturgy Assistant– Wendy Tarry
Music Director – Kelliann Festa
Accompanist– Rachel Postovoit
Pastor – The Rev. Vance Taylor
Ministers – Our Members!

WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER!

March 29, 2020

Hymn 1 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* #193-B

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er take me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me,
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

Hymn 2 *When Peace, Like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)* #438-B

When peace, like a river, upholds me each day,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul”

Refrain:
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though evil should attempt me, though trials should come,
Let this blessed assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has paid life and blood for my soul:

Refrain

My sin O, the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin, not in part, but the whole;
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

Oh God, speed the day that is filled with your light,
When clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear,
“Even so” - it is well with my soul.

Refrain

A Unison Psalm
Psalm 4 New Living Translation
A Plea to God for Deliverance

- ¹ Answer me when I call to you,
O God who declares me innocent.
Free me from my troubles.
Have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- ² How long will you people ruin my reputation?
How long will you make groundless accusations?
How long will you continue your lies?
- ³ You can be sure of this:
The LORD set apart the godly for himself.
The LORD will answer when I call to him.
- ⁴ Don't sin by letting anger control you.
Think about it overnight and remain silent.
- ⁵ Offer sacrifices in the right spirit,
and trust the LORD.
- ⁶ Many people say, "Who will show us better times?"
Let your face smile on us, LORD.
- ⁷ You have given me greater joy than those
who have abundant harvests of grain and
new wine.
- ⁸ In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for you alone, O LORD, will keep me safe.



*“When we put our problems
in God’s Hands, He puts
His Peace in our hearts.”*