



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ORDER OF WORSHIP
AUGUST 23, 2020

“No Matter Who You Are
or Where You Are on Life's Journey,
You're Welcome Here”

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*You and your household may want to have a candle and matches ready
for the lighting of candles*

PRELUDE: “Here I Am, Lord” Based on Isaiah 6:8 and 1Samuel 3, music by
Dan Schutte, *Patty Meyer*

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT MEDITATION and THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES
Please join by lighting a candle in your home
INTROIT: Surprise No.1

OPENING SENTENCES: Romans 8:22-24

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?

OPENING HYMN: "All Will Be Well" Julian of Norwich--music source: David Keller *Connie Green flute, Dwayne Johnson trumpet, Peter Amidon trombone, virtual choir.*

All Shall Be Well

"All Shall Be Well" words by Julian of Norwich.
Music by David Keller.
arr. Andy Davis and Peter & Mary Alice Amidon
P. Amidon wrote countermelodies for
the lyrics which are from the traditional English carol
"Candlemas Eve".

First system of musical notation. It consists of three staves: a vocal line (treble clef), a piano accompaniment line (treble clef), and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "All shall be well, you shall be well and so shall I, this is".

Second system of musical notation. It consists of three staves. The lyrics are: "life, times do shift, each thing it's turn, it's turn does hold. New all shall be well, and".

Third system of musical notation. It consists of three staves. The lyrics are: "things suc - ceed, new things suc - ceed as for - mer things grow old. All is all man - ner of things shall be".

Fourth system of musical notation. It consists of three staves. The lyrics are: "well, we take com-fort know-ing all shall be well, all shall be well, we shall be well. well, be well. well." The system includes first and second endings, with the second ending marked *rit.*

PREPARATION FOR CONFESSION¹

One: With what shall we come before the Lord? Shall we come before God with burnt offerings, with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil, with a calf just one-year old?

All: No! Let us, instead, do what God *actually* requires, to do what is *truly* holy: Justice. Kindness. Humility. These are God's highest objectives.

So, forgive us, Holy One, whenever we believe that You require more than we can give or afford, when we excuse or exempt ourselves from responsibility for our neighbor in need. Doing justice, let us join and support ministries. Spreading loving kindness, let us create a just, caring and compassion world, together.

Walking humbly with You, strengthen us to comfort those who mourn, to fill the hungry and thirsty with good things, to walk in peace. Restore us to Your holiest intentions. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

No longer need you plead your case to the mountains, nor be weary and heavy-hearted. You are set free to be love in the world. Just re-examine your priorities and trust in the godly potential placed within you. Then, all mercy, goodness and blessing will follow you, as you claim God's call to be a foolish vessel for the wisdom that is compassion.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: "Magnificat", based on Luke 1: 46-55 music by Peter Amidon, *virtual choir, Patty Meyer piano*

CHILDREN'S STORY: The Meaning of "Aloha" written by Tammy Paikai, illustrated by Rosalie Prussing

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S HYMN: "Aloha Oe" *Farewell to Thee* written circa 1878 by Queen Lili'uokalani of Hawaii *Peter Amidon ukulele & vocals*

¹ written by the Rev. Dr. J. Bennett Guess, Vice President, Council for Health and Human Service Ministries. Copyright 2017.

SCRIPTURE: Ian Silberman (Lise's oldest child)

LUKE 1:46-55

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For He that is mighty hath magnified me, and Holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm.

He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things,

And the rich He hath sent empty away.

He remembering His mercy, hath holpen his servant Israel as He promised to our forefathers Abraham, and His seed forever.

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.

MATTHEW 5:1-12

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down.
His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them.

He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all
kinds of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same
way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymn: #617
“Write These Words in Our Hearts ...”

SERMON: “Aloha”

ANTHEM: “Beatitudes” based on Matthew 5:1-12, composed by Peter Amidon
Virtual choir

ORDER FOR FAREWELL²: *Rev. Paul Sangree is the Associate Conference
Minister for the State of Vermont, Rev Shawn Bracebridge is the Moderator of the
Windham Union Association. We thank them for their presence at this service.*
Moderator (Fred Breunig):

Our church family is constantly changing.
People come and go.
Babies are born.
Children grow up.
People commit themselves to each other.
Loved ones and friends among us
come to the end of their lives.
Individuals move into our community and church life.
Others leave us, moving away to new places,
new experiences and new opportunities.
It is important and right
that we recognize these times of passage,
Of endings and beginnings.
Today we share the time of farewell
with a friend who is leaving.

² Book of Worship, United Church of Christ

RECOGNITION OF THE END

Associate Conference Minister (Rev. Paul Sangree)

On November 4, 2001, the Guilford Community Church, having called her informally in February of 2000, voted to call the Rev. Dr. Lise Sparrow to serve as permanent full-time pastor.

Pastor: (Rev. Lise Sparrow)

I thank the Guilford Community Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last 20 years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the way my leadership has been accepted. As I leave I carry with me all I have learned here.

People:

We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you are now retiring from active ministry. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Pastor:

I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

VOWS OF RELEASE

Rev. Sangree:

Do you, the members and friends of the Guilford Community Church, release Lise from the duties of pastor?

People:

We do, with the help of God.

Rev. Sangree:

Do you offer your encouragement to Lise for her retirement?

People:

We do, with the help of God.

Rev. Sangree:

Do you, Lise, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

Pastor: I do, with the help of God.

Rev Sangree:

Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and the relationship with the Rev. Elisa Lucozzi who will come to serve?

Pastor: I do, with the help of God.

WITNESS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Rev. Shawn Bracebridge, Windham Union Association, Moderator:

On behalf of the Windham Union Association of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness and release. The member churches of our association and conference hold you each in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

All: Thanks be to God.

Let us pray: (Fred Breunig)

God, whose everlasting love
for all is trustworthy,
Help each of us
to trust in the future
which rests in Your care.
The time we were together
in Your name saw our
laughter and tears,
our hopes and
disappointments.
Guide us as we hold these
cherished memories but
move in new directions,
until that time to come
when we are completely
one with You
and with each other,
in the name of Jesus Christ
we pray.

Amen.

ANTHEM: "On the Road Again" by Willie Nelson *Alumnae of GCC Sonic Sundaze*
(Payton Lawrence, Rhys Glennon, Aiden Meyer, Isaac Freitas Eagan, Jacob
Bailey, Derrick Harnish)



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

At this time and in this place we give thanks
for all that is familiar and ordered in our lives:

**The regular beating of our hearts
and the patterns of our breathing,**

The dusk of evening and the dawn of morning,

The ebb and flow of tides and the lapping of waves on the shore.
For well-loved Scripture and familiar hymns,

And for your constant love, the love of family and of friends.

We hold in prayer all those who are suffering from
the changes brought about by the COVID pandemic:

**Parents, teachers, and children about to embark on a school year like no
other,**

Essential workers working under strained and strange conditions,

Health care workers risking their lives to keep others healthy,

And those on the streets in protest of the racism which has plagued our nation
since its birth.

May our police be reasonable,

May our leaders be wise,

May protesters be strengthened and protected,

That our nation finds reconciliation and a new vision.

We give thanks for all and everything that changes and challenges us:

For new people and new ideas in our lives, especially for Elisa and Rosanne and for all they will bring to us,

**For children growing up, teenagers becoming adults,
and for every decade of life with its special privileges and challenges,**

For grief over things we have lost, and people we are separated from, and, most especially, for our congregation and for Lise and her family during this time of letting go.

Help us celebrate the Holy Spirit that makes every day new.

May we treasure our past and our traditions without becoming rigid,

**And embrace the journey ahead with hope, commitment and a faith in the
God who has brought us Safe Thus Far,**

Knowing, always and ever, that Grace that Will Lead Us home.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

Hymn #278 "Hear our Prayer, Oh Lord..."

SUPRISE No.2

THE OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

CLOSING HYMN: #368 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" by John Fawcett
Larry & Ellen Crockett, Mary Alice & Peter Amidon, Patty Meyer piano.

Blessed Be the Ties

words: John Fawcett, 1740-1817
 music: Johann G. Nageli, 1773-1836
 arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1. Blest be the tie that binds
 2. And when our day is done,
 3. We share our mu - tual woes,
 4. When we a - sun - der part,

5
 Our hearts in hu - man love;
 We pour our ar - dent pray'rs;
 Our mu - tual bur - dens bear;
 It give us in - ward pain;

9
 The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds
 Our fears, Our hopes, our aims are one,
 And of - ten for each oth - er flows
 But we shall still be joined in heart,

14
 Is like to that a - bove.
 Our com - forts and our cares.
 The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 And hope to meet a - gain.

MESSAGE from Lise's family *Ian Silberman, Lise's older son*

MESSAGE from Lawrence Kabuthi, Kenyan partner

PRESENTATION

BENEDICTION

THREEFOLD AMEN: Hymn #291

Please take a moment to enjoy the postlude and then join us at for our drive-around celebration for Lise at the church 11:30-12:30 to wave goodbye and receive a berry shortcake ☺

POSTLUDE: “On Eagle’s Wings” composed by Michael Joncas, words based on Psalm 91, Book of Exodus 19, and Gospel of Matthew 13, *Patty Meyer*