



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
235 South Kenilworth Avenue, Elmhurst, IL
Partners in Christ's Service since 1890

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Youth-Led Worship Service

At Home or Small Group Worship for Sept. 13, 2020

OPENING SONG – *audio available on the church website*

Meg McGarry, vocals
Dave Benziger, guitar

Here Comes the Sun

Lennon/McCartney

Here comes the sun, do, dun, do, do
Here comes the sun, and I say
It's all right

Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter
Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here

Here comes the sun, do, dun, do, do
Here comes the sun, and I say
It's all right

Little darling, the smile's returning to their faces
Little darling, it seems like years since it's been here

Here comes the sun, do, dun, do, do
Here comes the sun, and I say
It's all right

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

Little darling, I feel that ice is slowly melting
Little darling, it seems like years since it's been clear

Here comes the sun, do, dun, do, do
Here comes the sun, and I say
It's all right

Here comes the sun, do, dun, do, do
Here comes the sun
It's all right
It's all right

CALL TO WORSHIP

Do you not perceive it? GOD is doing a new thing!
It springs forth, making a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.
In our work and in our fellowship,
God is doing a new thing.
In our prayer and in our silence,
God is doing a new thing.
May we perceive the spirit of God in the newness all around us,
And may this new life spring forth in our own hearts and lives. Amen.

GATHERING PRAYER

God, you are made known to us in the rustling wind that blows, in the blazing fire that does not consume, in the face of the good, in the deep of the unknown. We meet you here. We accept your greeting. We welcome your inspiration. We await the change you have in store for us. Draw us into you. Inhabit our spirits. Focus our attention. Bring us to you – you who are already with us. Help us to be as you would have us be. Amen.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Prayer Hymn #263

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 angels' wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
Silent Prayer

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE – *audio available on the website* Sejal Reshamwala

Dear God, thank you that you never leave us where we are. Thank you for the promise of something new. Help us to fix our eyes forward in anticipation of all that is to come. Show us what new things you are wanting to do in and through us at this time. Holy Spirit, help us to see things differently through your eternal lens. More powerful than any goal we could aspire to on our own is our willingness to join in the new work you are doing. Thank you for your steady guidance and constant love.

At this time, we bring to you all those who are suffering from Covid-19 right now, the family members of those that have Covid-19 and have died from this virus. We also pray for the medical professionals that are serving those with Covid-19.

In our own community of faith, we have loved ones that are going through medical procedures or have gone through them and are recuperating and healing such as Phyllis Crosley, Jan Russell, Mary Loss, and Karen Sloma. Please keep your hand over them as they heal also letting them know they are loved. Amen

OUR LORD'S PRAYER – *audio available on the website* Michelle Maiers, vocals

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

SCRIPTURE – *audio available on the church website* Jack Rosen

Isaiah 43:18 -19

“Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.”
This is the word of God, Amen.

A New Thing

Hello everyone, I am Alex Stone. I have pretty much grown up in this church. My family and I began attending First Congregational when I was very young. I was confirmed here and am active in our Youth Ministry. I am a sophomore at York High School. I like to play soccer and be with my friends. I was invited to share with you a short reflection on this morning's scripture.

This morning's scripture speaks about "A New Thing" and indeed new things have emerged through COVID- 19. It's fair to say that the lives of both young and old have been turned upside down during this pandemic. The loss of human life and suffering is hard to imagine. Every part of our society has been directly affected by this virus. The pain of loss echoes throughout the world. I am sure that if time allowed each of you could share things that have come to pass in your lives. I know that as a student there are many things in my life that I use to do which I am no longer able to.

So why the emphases on "A New Thing"? It may very well come from the realizations that things will never be the same again. Oh I am sure that once a vaccination has been approved and administered we will eventually go back to some form of normal, but it will be a new day. For many Christians, this time has served as a spiritual revival or minimally we will never take the former things for granted.

The prophet Isaiah boldly announces that God is doing a new thing. He goes on to say "do you not perceive it?" In the same way that God promised deliverance from Babylon to the Israelites during the time of this scripture, so does God promise us.

I know that many of us are taking in all the change and pain that this pandemic has caused us. And yes, letting go of the past and what used to be is hard. We can move forward knowing God is in control and is making a way for us.

I hope you will join me, in receiving God's new plan that's just around the corner for us. Thank you.

OFFERTORY – *audio available on the church website*

Hold Us Together

Matt Maher

*Kevin Loeper and Meg McGarry, vocals
Dave Benziger, guitar*

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

CLOSING SONG – *audio available on the church website*

Meg McGarry, vocals
Dave Benziger, guitar

Don't Dream It's Over

Crowded House

There is freedom within, there is freedom without
Try to catch the deluge in a paper cup
There's a battle ahead, many battles are lost
But you'll never see the end of the road
While you're traveling with me

Hey now, hey now
Don't dream it's over
Hey now, hey now
When the world comes in
They come, they come
To build a wall between us
We know they won't win

Now I'm towing my car, there's a hole in the roof
My possessions are causing me suspicion but there's no proof
In the paper today tales of war and of waste
But you turn right over to the T.V. page

Hey now, hey now
Don't dream it's over
Hey now, hey now
When the world comes in
They come, they come

To build a wall between us
We know they won't win

Now I'm walking again to the beat of a drum
And I'm counting the steps to the door of your heart
Only shadows ahead barely clearing the roof
Get to know the feeling of liberation and release

Hey now, hey now
Don't dream it's over
Hey now, hey now
When the world comes in
They come, they come
To build a wall between us
We know they won't win

Don't let them win (hey now, hey now, hey now, hey now)
Hey now, hey now
Don't let them win (they come, they come)
Don't let them win (hey now, hey now, hey now, hey now)

CLOSING PRAYER

Amelia Morrow

Let us go forth into the world in peace and dedicated to Your service, O Lord. Let us hold fast to that which is good, render to no person evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the needy and the afflicted, **and honor all people**. Let us love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of God's Spirit. And may God's blessing be upon us and remain with us always. Amen.