

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, August 18, 2019

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship from Psalm 50

One: The mighty One summons us from sunrise to sunset.

All: Out of perfect beauty, God shines forth.

One: God calls to heaven and earth, "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me."

All: The heavens declare the righteousness of God, the judge of people and nations.

One: Let us not forget God, but with thanksgiving as our offering, let us be a people of justice.

All: We worship the God of our salvation.

Hymn 514 HESPERUS (QUEBEC)

O God of Love, O Power of Peace

O God of love, O Power of peace, make wars throughout the world to cease; the wrath of human sin restrain; give peace, O God, give peace again!

Remember, Lord, thy works of old, the wonders that our forbears told; remember not our sin's dark stain; give peace, O God, give peace again!

Whom shall we trust but thee, O Lord? Where rest but on thy faithful word? None ever called on thee in vain; give peace, O God, give peace again!

Where saints and angels dwell above, all hearts are

knit in holy love; O bind us in that heavenly chain; give peace, O God, give peace again!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) H. Holznagel

O God, your call for justice is so clear, but how easily we fail to hear you over the din of daily life. We want to cease to do evil. We want to learn to do good. Yet, we rarely do all we can to rescue, defend, and plead for those in need. As you have sought us out, so we seek your forgiveness. Grant us courage, we pray, as persons and communities, to bring about the justice you desire. Hear our prayers...

(*moments for silent reflections*)

Words of Assurance

Anthem A. Vivaldi

Laudamus Te

We praise you, we bless you, we give you glory.

Children's Message and Lord's Prayer

Katie Morgan

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism Sophia Grace Butcher
Scarlett Hazel Butcher

Congregational Response: With joy we welcome you into this church. Your baptism is not the end but the beginning of a journey of discovering just how much God loves you. This is our blessing to you: "Grow in grace and wisdom and do not fear, for the Lord is with

you. Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God."

Hymn 436 CLOSER WALK

I Am Weak, but Thou Art Strong

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea, daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea, daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more; guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea, daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Offertory J. Foley

Peace Prayer

Doxology 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

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

1The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

10Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! 11What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. 12When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; 13bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation — I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. 14Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. 15When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. 16Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, 17learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. 18Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. 19If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; 20but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Sermon

Peter Wiley

Hymn 426

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

I've God Peace Like a River

**I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, in a my soul. I've got river
in a my soul.**

**I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain, in a my soul. I've got
fountain in a my soul.**

**I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean, in a my soul. I've got
ocean in a my soul.**

**I've got faith like an anchor, I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor, in a my soul. I've
got anchor in a my soul.**

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude