

"The Story of Joseph", John August Swanson, 2005

THE 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A Service of the Word

August 16, 2020 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

The 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“It would be cheap and easy to say that surely it is OK because God was in all of [the consequences of this sibling rivalry], and used it to provide the Israelites with food and shelter when the future, colossal famine destroyed the surrounding area (Genesis 50:19-21). We must stay focused on the human story and realize that God’s sovereignty in our affairs does not make wrong right, but can become the opportunity to right wrongs and bring healing.”

— *Russ Parker, in Healing Wounded History: Reconciling Peoples and Healing Places*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ’s resurrection

Prelude — “Prelude and Fugue in G minor” attr. school of Bach

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Welcome

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship

One: Turn your face toward us, God,

Many: **so we might learn again your forgiveness.**

One: Turn your face toward us, God,

Many: **so we might learn to forgive ourselves.**

One: Turn your face toward us, God,

Many: **so we might learn to forgive one another.**

Hymn — “Hear My Cry, O God, and Save Me!”

this bulletin, pg. 6

Prayer of the Day

One: Let us pray.

Many: **Lord Jesus, Son of God,
your blessings know no boundaries
that faith cannot cross.
Strengthen us to trust in your mercy,
reach out for your healing,
and receive your reconciliation. Amen.**

News from our Life Together

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Refrain — from "Open My Eyes That I May See"

OPEN MY EYES

Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy will to see.

O - pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are placed below the vocal lines.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Genesis 45:1-15

Moved to tears by Judah's plea on behalf of Benjamin, Joseph declares, "I am Joseph!" and asks, "Is my father still alive?" Despite the brothers' evil intent, God used Joseph to preserve many lives at a time of famine.

Psalter — Psalm 133

One: How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

Many: **It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron,
flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

One: It is like the dew of Hermon
flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing:

Many: **life forevermore.**

The refrain (from "Open My Eyes That I May See" – music above) is repeated.

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

Responding with our Gifts

Give online: Go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button.

Text: Text “StorrsCongChurch” to 73256, followed by your gift amount (i.e. “StorrsCongChurch \$100”) to access online giving via text message.

Those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions (joys and concerns) during this time via the Chat feature in Zoom.

An Offering Thought

“It is not what goes into the mouth that defies a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” – Matthew 15:11

As we steward the church into a new future, let’s remember Jesus’ words to the disciples. It’s not so much about razor-edge adherence to law and strictures, but rather how one lives the life of faith. An authentic and faithful witness is needed for these difficult and shifting times.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “Voluntary in G” by Stanley

Dr. Patricia Snyder

The Prayers of the People, *ending with* The Lord’s Prayer

Many: 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

Hymn — “In the Bulb There is a Flower”

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Benediction

Postlude

Dr. Patricia Snyder

“Close Every Door” from *Joseph and the amazing technicolor dreamcoat* by Webber and Rice

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! We look forward to connecting with you!

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

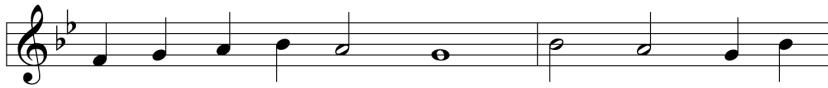
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Hear My Cry, O God, and Save Me! 781

(Psalm 77)



1 Hear my cry, O God, and save me! Trou - bles
 2 You, O God, once walked be - side me. In the
 3 All cre - a - tion bows be - fore you; saints in



and dis - tress en - slave me. Day and night I
 night your songs re - lived me. Were your prom - is -
 earth and heaven a - dore you. Thun - der roars and



seek your face, yearn - ing for your light and grace.
 es in vain? Will you smile on me a - gain?
 tor - rents fall at your word, O God of all!



But these eyes: they can - not see you; out - stretched
 Long a - go you brought re - demp - tion; your right
 In our grief, you stand be - side us, there to



arms: they can - not feel you. My heart breaks in
 hand won our sal - va - tion. I re - mem - ber
 lift us, and to guide us, un - seen sav - ior



deep de - spair; my soul longs to hold you here.
 deeds of old: now, re - mem - ber me, O Lord!
 of our days, heir to end - less songs of praise!

The growing confidence in this paraphrase of Psalm 77 is signaled by the movement from “me” to “us”; recalling the shared history of God’s people is a source of comfort and hope. Such remembering is also evident in the musical setting that uses the Genevan tune for this psalm.

In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) (Em)
F Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)
C7 F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."
Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

A Note on Giving: We welcome and encourage your financial generosity in support of the Storrs Congregational Church UCC and our mission to share in God's love by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people! Your giving back to God and God's mission through the life of this church is a part of your gratitude towards God and your faithful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to you. There are a number of ways you can make a financial contribution:

- **Mail:** You can mail your check or money order to us at the church office:
Storrs Congregational Church UCC, 2 North Eagleville Rd., Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268.
- **Drop-off:** You can drop off cash, checks, or money orders at the church office during the week.
- **Online Bill Pay:** Most banks and credit unions offer an "online bill pay" in their online account access. All you need to do is set up the church as another payee in that system, and your bank or credit union will take care of printing a check and mailing it to us—you don't even need to find a stamp! There is no cost, either to you or to the church, for using this option! You can even set up your contribution as an automatic/recurring payment, so that your generosity keeps flowing always.
- **Online or text via ACH debit from a checking or savings account:** By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green "Give now..." button), you can make an auto-debit from your checking or savings account. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 1% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 1% processing fee.)
- **Online or text via Debit Card or Credit Card:** By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green "Give now..." button), you can charge your contribution to a debit card or credit card. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 3% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 3% processing fee.) Please note, if using a *credit* card: we as a church do *not* want you to add to any debt load in order for you to contribute, as that's not good stewardship for any of us! If using a *credit* card, please make sure for your own sake that it is a card for which you pay off the balance each month.

If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latincsics (contact info available through the church office).

We envision our community as a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community. We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God's love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to *all*. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*We share in God's love by growing in faith,
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.*

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