



*"Manna 1"*

*Aerial view of the North Carolina Baptist Men's disaster kitchens, 2008 Texas floods.  
By FEMA photographer Mike Moore, 2008.*



## **THE 25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** **A Service of the Word**

*September 20, 2020 ✦ 10:00 a.m.*

## The 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

“This is characteristic of the way in which Yahweh helps his people in the wilderness—from day to day. Israel is not permitted to live in security lest she forget that she is utterly dependent on her God. She receives daily bread, and a daily portion only, from the hand of God. God’s help does not miraculously change the wilderness into a paradise; the desert situation cannot be forgotten, not even for one day.”

— Ulrich W. Mauser, *in Christ in the Wilderness*

### GATHERING

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

**Prelude** — “Trio Sonata No. 3, *Adagio e dolce*,” BWV 527, by Bach

*Dr. Patricia Snyder, organ*

**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**

*United Church of Christ Just Peace Sunday 2020*

*One:* At the foot of Mt. Sinai Moses told the people it was time to choose; would they worship the golden idols of Egypt where they were slaves, or would they worship Yahweh who had just freed them from pharaoh.

*Many:* **As for me and my household, we shall worship the Lord.**

*One:* Nathan stood before David and demanded he choose; would he worship power that came with the throne or would he worship the Lord that had saved him from the hands of his enemies.

*Many:* **As for me and my household, we shall worship the Lord.**

*One:* Jesus passed the cup of Passover to his disciples and told them it was time to choose; would they worship the traditions of their ancestors or the living God who made a place for them and all people at the table.

*Many:* **As for me and my household, we shall worship the Lord.**

*One:* The Spirit asks us to choose; shall we worship a culture of power, plenty and privilege that tells us to be afraid of the other, or the Child of God who lived faithfully and fearlessly welcoming all people into the loving household of God

*Many:* **As for me and my household, we shall worship the Lord!**

**Hymn** — “Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

*this bulletin, pg. 7*

## Prayer of the Day

*One:* Let us pray.  
Breadmaking God,  
providing food for your children  
with an abundance that surpasses our hopes,  
we praise you.

***Many:* God, maker and breaker of bread,  
feed and nourish us with your love.**

*One:* Breadmaking God,  
working with those who sweat and struggle  
to provide food and nourishment for the hungry,  
bring justice to your world.

***Many:* God, maker and breaker of bread,  
feed and nourish us with your love.**

*One:* Breadmaking God,  
hearing our greedy clamour for more,  
our desire for possessions surplus to our needs,  
forgive us.

***Many:* God, maker and breaker of bread,  
feed and nourish us with your love.**

*One:* Breadmaking God,  
offering us the bread of life,  
mysterious in its brokenness,  
feed us.

***Many:* God, maker and breaker of bread,  
feed and nourish us with your love.  
Amen.**

## News from our Life Together

# WORD

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

## Refrain — “The Steadfast Love of the Lord”

*by Edith McNeill*

Capo 1: (D) (D/F#) (G) (A7sus) (A)  
E<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7sus B<sup>b</sup>



The stead - fast love of the Lord nev - er ceas - es; God's  
mer - cies nev - er come to an end. They are  
new ev - ery morn - ing, new ev - ery morn - ing; great is your  
faith - ful - ness, O Lord, great is your faith - ful - ness.

(D) (D/F#) (G) (A7sus) (A7)  
E<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7sus B<sup>b</sup>7

(G) (A) (F#m7) (Bm7) (Em7)  
A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Gm7 Cm7 Fm7

(A7sus) (A7) (D) (A/C#)(Bm7) (Em7) (A7sus) (A7) (D)  
B<sup>b</sup>7sus B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/D Cm7 Fm7 B<sup>b</sup>7sus B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup>

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture Reading — Exodus 16:2-15

Faced with hunger in the wilderness, the Israelites longed for life back in Egypt and wished they had never left. Then God miraculously and graciously gave them quails and manna to eat.

*The refrain (“The Steadfast Love of the Lord” – music above) is repeated.*

## Sermon — “What is it?”

*The Rev. Matthew Emery*

## RESPONSE

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

### Responding with our Gifts

**Give online:** Go to [www.storrsconchurch.org](http://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

*"Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous? So the last will be first, and first will be last." – Matthew 20:15-16*

In this parable Jesus reminds us that it is God's nature to be generous and that God has special concern for the poor and marginalized. We often assume that everyone gets what we deserve by the strength of our own will and bootstraps. God has other ideas and loves all people.

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** — "We Shall Walk Through the Valley" by Undine Smith Moore  
*SCC Choral Scholars: Sarah Marze, Audrey Rivetta, Cooper Clark, Jonah Garcia*

Ah, Lord, we shall walk, shall walk in peace.

We shall walk through the valley in peace.

If Jesus, himself shall be our leader, we shall walk through the valley in peace.

Shall walk in peace. Lord, we shall walk in peace.

There will be no trials there.

If Jesus, himself shall be our leader, we shall walk through the valley in peace.

Shall walk in peace. Lord, we shall walk in peace.

### 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

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

**Hymn** — "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

*this bulletin, pg. 8*

**Benediction**

**Postlude** — "Sonata No. 2, *Allegro maestoso*" by Mendelssohn

*Dr. Patricia Snyder, organ*

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!

**JUST**  
**PEACE**  
**SUNDAY**  
**9.20.2020**



### What is Just Peace?

Just Peace is not a destination, but a path requiring awareness and constant vigilance to resolve existing and developing conflict in ourselves, our families, our communities, our institutions, and our world. This path requires non-violence when possible and even when impossible to engage in love and restraint. Just Peace envisions a renewed, vibrant, diverse, and sustainable world free of violence.

Just Peace is grounded in God's activity in creation; God's covenant patience and provision in the wilderness; in the reconciling activity of Jesus Christ; in the presence of the Holy Spirit; and in the community of reconciliation. Shalom is the vision that pulls all creation toward a time when weapons are made into ploughs and all creatures lie down together without fear; where all have their own vine, fig tree, and dwell secure from want. As Christians, we offer this conviction to the world: **Peace is possible!**

*On January 28, 2018, we declared ourselves a Just Peace Church congregation, committing ourselves to giving time, talents, and dollars to the ministry of advocacy to change unjust policies and systems.*

## Brethren, We Have Met to Worship 396

1 Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship and a - dore the Lord our God.  
 2 Sis - ters, will you come and help us? Mo-ses' sis - ter aid - ed him.  
 3 Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?  
 4 Let us love our God su - preme-ly; let us love each oth - er, too.

Will you pray with all your pow - er while we try to preach the word?  
 Will you help the trem-bling mourn-ers who are strug-gling hard with sin?  
 Is there here a weep-ing Mar - y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?  
 Let us love and pray for sin - ners till our God makes all things new.

All is vain un - less the Spir - it of the ho - ly One comes down.  
 Tell them all a - bout the Sav - ior. Tell them that he will be found.  
 Breth-ren, join your cries to help them; sis - ters, let your prayers a - bound!  
 Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ta - ble we'll sit down.

Breth - ren, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.  
 Sis - ters, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.  
 Pray, O pray, that ho - ly man - na will be scat-tered all a-round.  
 Christ will gird him-self and serve us with sweet man-na all a-round.

This hymn comes out of the early 19th-century southern camp meeting experience, where believers were invited to pray for new converts, often likened to biblical characters such as Paul's jailer (Philippians 1:12-13). As its name shows, the five-note tune was created for this text.

## Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me  
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.  
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.  
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

## Notes and Acknowledgements

### Acknowledgements:

- Call to Worship from the United Church of Christ Just Peace Sunday 2020 "Seeking Racial Equity and a Just Economy" liturgical resources.
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**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](http://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](http://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.*

<i>Ministers</i>	All of the Congregation
<i>Senior Minister</i>	Rev. Matthew C. Emery – <a href="mailto:matt@storrsconchurch.org">matt@storrsconchurch.org</a>   Ext. 23
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<i>Sexton</i>	Antonio Aguilera