



"Moses," John August Swanson, 1983



THE 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
A Service of the Word

September 27, 2020 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“God is a generous giver, but we can only see and enjoy God’s generosity when we love God with all of our hearts, minds, and strength. As long as we say: ‘I will love you, God, but first show me your generosity’, we will remain distant from God and unable to experience what God truly wants to give us, which is life and life in abundance.”

— *Henri J. M. Nouwen, in Bread for the Journey*

GATHERING

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

Prelude — “Suite du Deuxième Ton - *selections*” by Clérambault

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: Come, all who thirst—come to the water!
You who long for the water of life—come and drink!
Dip your soul in the river of God’s goodness;
quench your thirst at God’s well of grace.

Many: **For God is here among us,
offering living water to all who would drink!
Let’s worship God together!**

Hymn — “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

this bulletin, pg. 6

Prayer of the Day

One: Let us pray.

Many: O Lord our God,
you are always more ready
to bestow your good gifts upon us
than we are to seek them.
You are more willing to give
than we desire or deserve.
Help us so to seek that we may truly find,
so to ask that we may joyfully receive,
so to knock that the door of your mercy
may be opened for us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

News from our Life Together

WORD

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

Refrain — “The Lord Is God”

AZMON

The Lord is God, the Lord a-lone! Give hon-or, thanks, and praise
to God, the mak - er of all things and giv-er of our days.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the LORD among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

The refrain (“The Lord Is God” – music above) is repeated.

Sermon

The Rev. Donna Manocchio

RESPONSE

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

Responding with our Gifts

Give online: Go to www.storrscongchurch.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

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. – Philippians 2:3-4

When we consider the interests of others something beautiful happens: Our own interests seem less important, our wants fewer, and relationships flourish. Only by aligning our wills and lives with Christ may we grow into the fullness of life God desires and intends for us.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “I Will Arise” traditional, arr. by Robert Shaw and Alice Parker

Adult Choir members: Cathy Jeffers, Elaine Chague, Mark Roy, Rich Cowles

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms,
In the arms of my dear Saviour, Oh! There are ten thousand charms.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above,
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.

Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace,
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. *(to verse 1)*

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 — “O God, Who Gives Us Life”

this bulletin, pg. 7

Benediction

Postlude

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!

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

- Call to Worship from *re:Worship: Scripturally-based resources for worship planners and leaders*, <http://re-worship.blogspot.com/>
- Hymn - “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”: Public domain. Reprinted from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press.
- Prayer of the Day from the *Book of Common Prayer* of St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, Scotland, 1637; appearing in *Book of Common Worship*, ©2018 Westminster John Knox Press. (The 1637 Scottish *Book of Common Prayer* was an Anglican liturgy that King Charles I and Archbishop William Laud attempted to impose upon the Scottish church. The Scottish people immediately denounced it; in fact, a riot broke out at St. Giles’ Cathedral when the Dean of the cathedral first attempted to begin a service using this book.)
- Refrain - “The Lord Is God”: Text by David Gambrell, 2011: ©2011 David Gambrell, admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.; all rights reserved; reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-719182. Music by Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839; public domain. Reprinted from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #63.
- Scripture introductions reprinted from *Sundays and Seasons 2020*, ©2019 Augsburg Fortress, Publishers.
- Offering Thought from Rob Blezard, *Stewardship Snippets*, Stewardship of Life Institute.
- Hymn - “O God, Who Gives Us Life”: Text ©1990 Hope Publishing Company; all rights reserved; reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-719182. Reprinted from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press.

81 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.
 2 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
 3 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,

God, whose word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.
 for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.

On the rock of a - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
 Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows, their thirst to as - suage?

With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may' st smile at all thy foes.
 safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.
 Grace, so like the Lord the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.

The Nazi appropriation of this tune for propaganda purposes has clouded a noble piece of music first associated with this text in 1889. In a 1779 collection, the author indicated that this hymn is primarily based on Isaiah 33:20-21 with allusions to several other passages.

53 O God, Who Gives Us Life

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov-e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,

Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

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.*

<i>Ministers</i>	All of the Congregation
<i>Senior Minister</i>	Rev. Matthew C. Emery – matt@storrsconchurch.org Ext. 23
<i>Director of Music Ministries</i>	Dr. Patricia Snyder – trisha@storrsconchurch.org Ext. 26
<i>Office Administrator</i>	Deborah Gacek – sccoffice@storrsconchurch.org Ext. 21
<i>Sexton</i>	Antonio Aguilera