



"The Ten Young Women," JESUS MAFA, 1973



THE 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
A Service of the Word

November 8, 2020 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

The 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“He lays upon us no other burden than that of putting our whole trust in him—no difficult self-immolation, no exaggerated austerities, no excesses of ascetic practice. He wants us to be kind and just and true in all the little dealings of our daily life, but even that he does not expect of us in our own strength.”

— John Baillie

GATHERING

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

Prelude — “Prelude on LLANGLOFFAN” by Chamberlin

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 — *adapt. from Psalm 78:1-4*

One: God speaks: “Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times”

Many: **That which we have heard and known,
and what our forebears have told us,
we will not hide from their children.
We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds
and the power of the LORD,
and the wonderful works God has done.**

Hymn — “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

this bulletin, pg. 8

Prayer of the Day

One: Let us pray.

Many: **Holy God, whose fire of love never goes out:
free us from the fear of scarcity
that keeps us out of love's own feast;
renew our trust in your abundance
which knows no death
and keeps no count;
through Jesus Christ, the oil of gladness. Amen.**

News from our Life Together

WORD

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

Refrain — “In God Alone”

MON ÂME SE REPOSE (Taizé)

In God a - lone my soul can find rest and peace, in
Mon â - me se re - po - se en paix sur Dieu seul: de

God my peace and joy. On - ly in God my
lui vient mon sa - lut. Oui, sur Dieu seul mon

soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.
â - me se re - po - se, se re - po - se en paix.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

In the Near East, *covenant* means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

Scripture Reading — Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

The refrain (“In God Alone” – music above) is repeated.

Sermon

The Rev. Matthew Emery

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

“But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” – Amos 5:24

Through the prophet Amos, God condemns hollow displays of religiosity. What God desires is action—justice and righteousness—ever-flowing from the hearts of those who love the Lord. Act on your thankfulness this week by working for justice in your community.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “I Waited for the Lord” from *Elijah* by Mendelssohn

Duet:

Cathy Jeffers and Sarah Marze, sopranos

I waited for the Lord, he inclined unto me,
He heard my complaint, he heard my complaint.
O blessed are they that hope and trust in the Lord.
O blessed are they that hope and trust in Him.

DEDICATION OF COMMITMENTS FOR 2021: Faithful, Hopeful, Loving

Many: Generous, gracious, and loving God,

**we celebrate the faithful, hopeful, and loving generosity
of those before us, who stewarded and nurtured our gifts.**

We give thanks for the multitude of blessings and opportunities

you give to us.
And we dedicate ourselves
to serve as the hands and feet of Christ today—
faithfully, hopefully, and lovingly—
in our church, our neighborhoods, our country, and our world.
Bless our commitments,
and leading us and guiding us, into your tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

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 — “How Great Thou Art”

this bulletin, pg. 6, vss. 1, 2, & 4

Benediction

Postlude — “Fantasy in G minor,” BWV 542, by Bach

Dr. Patricia Snyder

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 based on Psalm 78:1-4 as appears in the ecumenically-shared inclusive language liturgical psalter in *Book of Common Worship*, ©2018 Westminster John Knox Press; originally prepared for *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, ©2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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O Lord My God
How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the
3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me

all the *worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, when I look down from
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then *I shall bow in

hear the *roll-ing thun-der, thy power through-out the
loft-y moun-tain gran-deur and hear the brook and
bur-den glad-ly bear-ing, he bled and died to
hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion, and there pro-claim, "My

**Author's original words are "works," "mighty," and "shall I bow."*

This tuneful retelling of the salvation story began in Swedish and was translated into German and then into Russian before reaching its English form. Despite such linguistic and musical revisions, it continues to be a meaningful source of comfort to many people.

TEXT: Stuart K. Hine, 1953; Spanish trans. Arturo W. Hotton Rives, alt.; Korean trans. anon.

MUSIC: Swedish folk melody; adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1949

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HOW GREAT THOU ART

11.10.11.10 with refrain

Refrain

u - ni - verse dis - played:
 feel the gen - tle breeze: Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to
 take a - way my sin: God, how great thou art!"

thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my
 Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

KOREAN

- 1 주 하나님 지으신 모든세계
 내마음 속에 그리어 볼때
 하늘의 별 울려 퍼지는 너성
 주님의 권능 우주에 찾네
- 후렴 주님의 높고 위대하심을
 내영혼이 찬양하네
 주님의 높고 위대하심을
 내영혼이 찬양하네
- 2 숲속이나 험한산 골짜에서
 지저귀는 저 새소리들과
 고요하게 흐르는 시냇물은
 주님의 숨씨 노래하도다 후렴
- 3 주하나님 독생자 아낌없이
 우리를 위해 보내주셨네
 십자가에 피흘려 죽으신 주
 내모든 죄를 대속하셨네 후렴
- 4 내주 예수 세상에 다시 올 때
 지천국으로 날 인도하리
 나 겸손히 엎드려 경배하며
 영원히 주를 찬양하리라 후렴

SPANISH

- 1 Señor, mi Dios, al contemplar los cielos,
 el firmamento y las estrellas mil,
 al oír tu voz en los potentes truenos
 y ver brillar al sol en su cenit,
- Estribillo Mi corazón se llena de emoción.
 ¡Cuán grande es Él! ¡Cuán grande es Él!
 Mi corazón se llena de emoción.
 ¡Cuán grande es Él! ¡Cuán grande es Él!
- 2 Al recorrer los montes y los valles
 y ver las bellas flores al pasar,
 al escuchar el canto de las aves
 y el murmurar del claro manantial, Estribillo
- 3 Cuando recuerdo de tu amor divino
 que desde el cielo al Salvador ervió,
 al buen Jesús, que por salvarme vino
 y en una cruz por mí sufrió y murió, Estribillo
- 4 al dulce hogar, al cielo de esplendor;
 te adoraré, cantando la grandeza
 de tu poder y tu infinito amor. Estribillo

362 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice! Re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing; re - plen-ish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon he will draw nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, watch with ex - pec - ta - tion; at mid - night comes the cry.
 a - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride - groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

The Latin original of this text based on the parable of the wise and foolish maidens (Matthew 25:1-13) consisted of ten stanzas, but this briefer version is more appropriate for its message of urgency. It is set to a spirited minor Welsh tune named for a Pembrokeshire village.

A Note on Giving: We welcome and encourage your financial generosity in support of the Storrs Congregational Church UCC! 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.

- **Mail:** You can mail your check or money order to us at the church office
- **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 print a check and mail it to us at no cost—you don't even need to find a stamp!
- **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.) If using a *credit* card, know that 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! If using a *credit* card, please make sure, for your own sake, that it's 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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