



Awake My Soul, Mike Moyers



**THE 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER:
MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY
A Service of the Word**

May 16, 2021 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

The 7th Sunday of Easter

YHWH, God of my deliverance, by day I cry out to you; in the night I am before you. Let my prayer reach you; turn your ear to my cry!

— Psalm 88

GATHERING

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

Prelude — “Let Us Rejoice” by Cynthia Dobrinski

Adult Handbells

Welcome

Acclamation & Greeting

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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: We gather in the presence of the Holy One who abandons no one.

Many: **Come Holy Spirit, our advocate and comforter, inviting us to create communities of radical belonging for all.**

One: All are welcome in this sacred place, made holy through your presence with us.

Many: **Open our hearts and minds this day, guide us into a loving relationship with all your people.**

One: We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one outside.

Many: **Spark us with a word of life and radical belonging—a message that we share with others are we seek to live out Christ's love.**

One: We call on the name of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us.

Many: **Amen.**

Invocation

One: O God, come into our place of worship this day and enliven us.

Many: **Come into each heart, each story, each prayer, each song, each life here today so that we may live and love with purpose, courage, and beauty.**

One: O God, who has created each of us in your image and made us one body, each as holy vessels of your presence to one another, create in and among us a holy place.

Many: **Give us hearts and minds, we pray, to be open to human vulnerability; To listen to each other with patient and thoughtful attention and support,**

**To perceive the grace of the differences in our embodied experience,
To resist what excludes and diminishes, and to dismantle what acts as barriers
to flourishing together in love and justice.**

One: O God, help us to trust your Spirit's work to make us whole, together in relationships of mutuality and partnership, in sacred rhythms of giving and receiving.

Many: **Gather us together to be your people in the world.**

One: In Jesus' name we pray.

Many: **Amen.**

Hymn — “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

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Prayer of Confession

One: Creator God, You are full of grace and justice. You are Holy and Wholly present with us every moment of our lives. In our rush to compartmentalize and create control in our lives, we have sometimes ironically allowed seeds of chaos to be planted in our relationships with others. We have sought to put people and their illnesses, struggles, and complexities at bay while we justify ourselves as “normal” or “quirky”. Yet in your Righteousness, Lord, You have seen fit to be steadfastly patient and divinely compassionate with all of your Creation—including us. We confess both our subconscious and willful othering that provides us false protection from our own inner battles. You said that if we confess, you will draw us close and wrap us in your forgiveness that provides both truth and love. We come before you with humble hearts and contrite spirits asking for your pardon. Continue to grant us the invaluable gift of the ability to know one another and walk together in an intimacy that only you can manifest. Into Your care, we commit our collective weakness, assured by Your omniscient strength and love. Amen.
Moment of silent confession.

Words of Assurance

One: Friends, hear the Good News:
No valley is too despairing, broken, or dusty for God to enter in. No fear, no chaos, no hopelessness is beyond the reach of the One whose breath gives us life. Through Christ, God sees only our wholeness. Through Christ, forgiveness, love, and new life are always possible.
Come, Holy Spirit, come. Make all things new.

Many: **We are reclaimed and remade by the Spirit of Life. In our brokenness and in our**

wholeness we are God's beloved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

WORD

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

Response — “Take, O Take Me as I Am”

TAKE ME AS I AM

The musical score is written for voice and piano in 4/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me." The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Acts 1:1-11

Early Word

The *response* “Take, O Take Me as I Am” (music above) is repeated.

Sermon — “Look Around”

Rev. Liz Garrigan-Byerly

RESPONSE

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

Offertory Prayer

One: It is now time in our service to generously offer our resources for the good of this church and beyond.

In our offering we share not only measurable treasures of time, talents and resources, we also radically commit to sharing immeasurable gifts of forgiveness, grace, compassion, acceptance and loving concern with each other and with ourselves.

Prayer of Dedication

One: May these gifts help to build the community of radical belonging that we hope to create. May they be a legacy of justice, hope, faith and most importantly love. Amen.

Responding with our Gifts

During the offertory music, while reflecting on the gifts we have to offer, those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions—joys and concerns—via the “Chat” feature in Zoom. These petitions will be collected together and transmitted to Pastor Debbie for inclusion during the time for prayers of the people. To protect privacy, surnames will not be used.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “Behold the Lamb” by D. Rambo

Elaine Chague, soloist

Behold the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world.
For sinners crucified, O Holy Sacrifice, behold the Lamb of God.
Crown Him, crown Him, worthy is the Lamb.
Praise Him, praise Him, heaven and earth resign.
Behold the Lamb of God.

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.**

For the Lord’s Prayer, we invite you to use the language most comfortable for you: “Our Father/ Mother/ Creator/ Holy One...”

SENDING

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

News from our Life Together

Hymn — “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

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Benediction

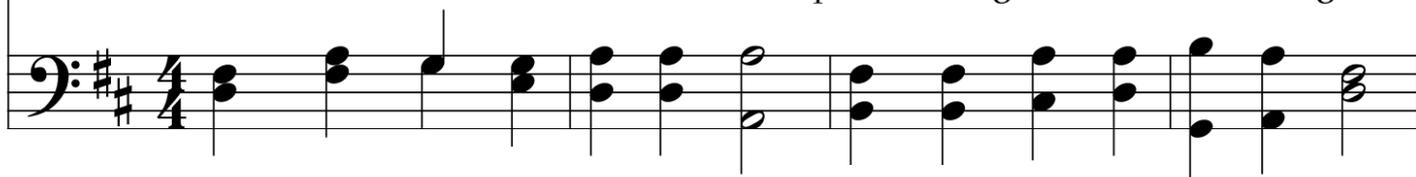
Postlude — “Promised Land” American Folk Hymn and Jean J. Mouret arr. by Tammy Waldrop
Adult Handbells

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open *for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! Depending on the number of participants, we may break people into smaller groups using the “breakout room” functionality. We look forward to connecting with you!*

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 662



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa-nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
joy - less is the day's re - turn till thy mer - cy's beams I see;
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.



649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

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- Scripture introductions reprinted from *Sundays and Seasons 2020*, ©2019 Augsburg Fortress, Publishers.
- Hymn – “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” Text: Stanzas 1-4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790. Music: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr, Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-719182. Reprinted from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #649.
- Service prayers today adapted from the liturgy, “Radical Belonging: Mental Health Sunday Liturgies and Resources for All” created in prayer and partnership between the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network and the United Church of Canada with generous contributions by the Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, the UCC’s Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice.

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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