

Welcome

Prelude/Candle-lighting

“Le Tic-Toc-Choc”
(F. Couperin)

Evelyn Rohrbach

Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Happy are we

All: when our treasures cannot be quantified.

Leader: Happy are we

All: when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.

Leader: Happy are we

All: when our pain is held in the balm of love.

Leader: Happy are we

All: when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.

***Opening Prayer (unison)**

Compassionate God, you bless us in our weakness and need, even as you call us to live in love and justice with our neighbors. You invite us into lives of powerful humility—listening to one another, forgiving ourselves, forgiving each other. Source and Ground of our being, help us in all of our living to say “yes” to you. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

“What Does the Lord Require?” (attached)

Readings

Pinckney Hall

Micah 6:1-8

Matthew 5:1-12

“Song of the Builders” by Mary Oliver

Special Music

“Chanson Triste”

Dean Langby/Evelyn Rohrbach

Sermon

A Single Cricket

Rev. Kathleen Remund

Transitional Hymn

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

SoF #87

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Creator 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 the glory, forever. Amen.

Stewardship Moment

Jacqueline Bonneville

Offering/Offertory

"Gigue from the first cello suite"
(J.S. Bach)

Dean Langby

*Doxology (in unison)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all people here below;
Praise God above you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Gracious God, who gathers the poor, comforts the grieving, gives inheritance to the meek, feeds the hunger of the just, offers mercy to the merciful and vision to the pure in heart; God who adopts the peacemakers, upholds the persecutors, finds the lost and awakens the dead—we offer these gifts for the sake of your Kingdom. Use them, we pray, to pass on your blessings. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"Song of Hope"

Hymnal #432

*Benediction

Leader: May God bless you in your mourning and celebrating, your peacemaking and wound-tending, your leadership and limits, your seeking and failing, your meekness and mercy. May you know yourself loved and held in all your humble humanity.

All: Amen.

*Sung Benediction

God, be with you till we meet again;
By their counsels guide, uphold you;
With their sheep securely fold you;
God, be with you till we meet again.

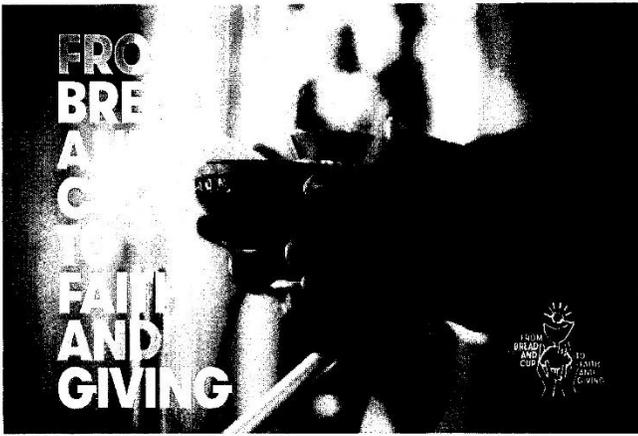
Postlude

"Fugue in D Major"
(J.S. Bach)

Evelyn Rohrbach

The flowers today are from Deb and Alan Benoit and are a reminder we are halfway through winter, hopefully, so that means spring is on its way!

- The Call to Worship was written by Katherine Hawker (2006) and posted on Liturgy Outside. Reposted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/08/call-to-worship-beatitudes.html>.
- The Opening Prayer was adapted from one in the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, Wild Goose Publications, 2017, pp. 104-105.
- The Prayers of the People were adapted from one posted on *Literature and Liturgy*, <https://iesusscribbles.wordpress.com/>
- The Prayer of Dedication was adapted from a blessing written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page, <http://www.bruceprewer.com>. Reposted at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.
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God Widens the Narrow Door

Luke 13: 22-30

Rev. James D. Ross II (he, him, his)

*Minister for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Southern New England Conference UCC*

The frequent human inclination to operate as though resources and opportunities are scarce presents itself in the question of someone Jesus encountered during his journey to the Passover in Jerusalem.

“Lord, will only a few be saved,” the man asked.

Many scholars agree the man was someone who felt certain of his own salvation – whether because he was following the rules, because of his connection to the lineage of Abraham, or for other reasons. But how many would be saved along with him?

Jesus responded with a parable about people arriving at a house for a party and being denied entry by the owners, who said they did not know the visitors, despite the visitors’ claims of a friendship with them. The message, perhaps, is that none of us should assume that our connection to God is stronger or that our relationship with God is more special than that of anyone else.

Jesus follows the parable with the promise that far from “a few” being saved, “people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.”

Our God is one of abundance. Just as God welcomes people from all directions to the kingdom (and kindom) of God, so has God created the earth with enough resources for us all. We need only remember that everyone is deserving of them.

How is your stewardship reflected in this parable? Do you operate as though there is only enough for you, or do you model generosity and gratitude for God’s provision?

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.

From **BREAD** and **CUP**  to **FAITH** and **GIVING** 

What Does the Lord Require of You(V1)

Piano

What does the Lord re-quire of you

Piano

p Jus-tice Kind-ness

Piano

p To SEEK Jus-tice and love Kind-ness

Piano

5

1. 2. 3.

Pno.

What does the Lord require of you

Pno.

walk hum-bly with your God

Pno.

and walk humbly with your God

Pno.

Canto de Esperanza Song of Hope

ARGENTINA 11.11.11.11 with refrain

Alvin Schutmaat, 1984

Argentine folk melody

¡Dios de la es-pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun-do en
 May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day. Fill - ing all our

cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -
 lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us

nos tu luz, Luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.
 on our way, Bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.

Refrain

O - re - mos por la paz, Can - te - mos de tu a - mor.
 Pray - ing, let us work for peace, Sing - ing, share our joy with all,

Lu - che - mos por la paz, Fie - les a Ti, Se - ñor.
 Work - ing for a world that's new, Faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

