



THE SANBORNTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Established 1771

THE ORDER FOR MORNING WORSHIP

May 22, 2022

Sixth Sunday of Easter

PREPARING

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT: “Let yourself be silently drawn by the strange pull of what you really love. It will not lead you astray.” - Rumi

We invite you to listen to the music and abide in God’s presence.

ORGAN PRELUDE Chorale Prelude on “Adoro te Devote” Healey Willan

WELCOME

David Henderson

GATHERING

*Hymn # 268 Creator Spirit, Come, We Pray Dickenson College

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*) (Adaptation on Psalm 67)

One: Holy One, on this day of glory, shine down upon us.

All: Make your ways known to us, guide us among the nations.

One: Listen close, Holy One, hear your people give you praise!

All: The world sings for your glory, we sing with joy for your presence here.

One: Here us loud, Holy One! Let all people give you praise!

All: From here to the ends of the earth, we sing with joy for your love!

CHORAL INTROIT

Be Still

Laura Belanger

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Holy and most Merciful God, we come to you now with fire in our hearts. We come to you in praise, we come to you with a song on our lips. We come to you this morning looking for more. More of your love, more of your mercy, your peace, your grace. We do not have the right for these demands, yet we have them, nonetheless. Merciful One, send your spirit to move within this room, stoke the flames of our faith, open our minds to your immeasurable wisdom. We stand ready. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Everlasting God, just as we come to you with praise on our lips, we come with a heaviness on our hearts. Your path has been laid forth, yet we lose our way. Your light shines down upon us, yet we seek the shade. Help us to overcome these stumbling blocks in our journey with you. Help us to remain steadfast in your love. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Light and Darkness, fire and flame, the journey to eternity. When we allow them to, these heavy aspects of this life can burden us to the point of collapse. In this moment, let us breathe deep the air of peace God has given us and rest.

ANTHEM Day By Day Mark Schweizer

REFLECTING AND PRAYING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE O Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer Richard Shepherd

SCRIPTURE John 14:23-29 Brendan Morrison

*HYMN # 43 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Beecher

MEDITATION “Let the Spirit Flow” Derek Waldron

MEDITATION MUSIC

COMMITTING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC Soliloquy Healey Willan

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures
here below: Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

**God of New Creation, we offer up what we have to you knowing you will
transform our gifts, our abilities, and our love into agents of change
within this world. May your love be known to many through our service
to you. Amen.**

GOING TO SERVE

FINDING FAITH IN WHAT WE DO

*HYMN # 391 In the Midst of New Dimensions New Dimensions

*BENEDICTION Derek Waldron

ORGAN POSTLUDE Postude in D Healey Willan

*We invite you to be seated to listen to the postlude; if you need to leave,
please do so quietly. Thank you.*

**As comfortable, please rise.*

WELCOME!

If you are new or visiting the area, we give you *a special welcome*.

Please visit our website: www.uccsanbornton.org, for the monthly newsletter

(*Belfry*) and Past sermons “Follow” us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/sanborntonuccchurch> and watch us on our

YouTube channel –

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAeFubn0S3JWWB0xKxiNqHw>

Sunday Worship services continue to be live streamed on YouTube—join us Sunday morning at 10 am or anytime you have a chance.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAeFubn0S3JWWB0xKxiNqHw>

Pastoral Concerns: While Pastor Paula is on vacation please contact David Henderson, Moderator or Kim Bossey, Clerk. Rev. Andrew MacLeod pastor in Bristol and Rev. Wanda Lester are covering for Pastor Paula.

Donate Altar Flowers: If you would like to place flowers on the Altar in memory or honor of someone or if you just want to bless the congregation, please contact Barbara Osler bosler@metrocast.net.

Guidelines for in-person worship The Reopening Task Force remains in place and continues to monitor local and regional data. We are watching the current data closely as it is ever changing. At this time the guidelines will remain the same. Masks are optional. Please be aware of your own risk factors and make personal decisions about your own personal safety. Please respect our neighbors’ choices.

Today’s Scripture Reader: Brendan Morrison

Greeter: Sharron Danforth **Usher:** Sue Long

Next Week’s Reader: Debi Gray

Greeter: Barbara Osler **Usher:** Mary Ruth Scott

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's Flowers: Today the altar flowers are in memory of Lee Hart, remembering her on the anniversary of her birthday, May 24th, given by the Hart Family: David, Bruce, Carol and Edward.

Thank You – to our guest preacher today, Derek Waldron. He is a member in discernment to become a Chaplain in the National Guard

Coffee Hour: Please join us for a time of fellowship and good food following the worship service in the Undercroft.

Committee Meetings and Gatherings

Sunday, May 29	10:00 am	In-person and Live Streaming Worship
Wednesday, June 1	10:30 am	Seekers
Sunday, June 5	10:00 am	In-person and Live Streaming Worship
Sunday, June 12	10:00 am	In-person and Live Streaming Worship Confirmation Sunday
Wednesday, June 15	10:30 am	Seekers
	7:00 pm	Council
Sunday, June 19	10:00 am	In-person and Live Streaming Worship Father's Day
Monday, June 20		First Day of GOT LUNCH! Sanbornton
Sunday, June 26	10:00 am	In-person and Live Streaming Worship



www.uccsanbornton.org

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 22, 2022

Acts 16:9-15

Disciples Together *Rural Life Sunday*

In today's reading, Paul gets called to Macedonia, which is far from the urban centers he has known. On this rural life Sunday, we celebrate pastors in rural communities, who also answer calls far from cities. Today, a few of those pastors reflect on the joys and challenges of being a rural church pastor.

Dana Schindler, whose church recently celebrated 150 years together, says that a joy is that members feel a real connection to the church. A challenge is related to the joy. Almost everyone is related and it can be difficult for new people who are not members of the 2 main families to feel accepted.

Whitney Prose Bruno writes, "We really are family. (Often literally.) Everyone knows everyone. This means you're welcomed with flaws and merits both. But the challenge is that rural churches like most organizational groups are in decline. An urban congregation has the opportunity to share church space with other congregations, and nonprofits. Community continues. A rural congregation does not. If the handful stop meeting, there's not another socialization and community for the elderly (not online) members to join."

Rural churches understand the importance of feeding one another. Sara Bartlett gives thanks for the joy of shared vegetables from the many gardens in her community. Rev. Deanna Armstrong is proud of her small congregation which produced 200 pounds of food in its community garden. In a drought, at 6,200 feet of elevation.

Family and food are blended with a good bit of humor, too. Rev. Kimberly Shrader, who serves a two-point charge in Maine, says wryly, "The smaller of the churches I serve gave me a bit of a surprise when I first arrived. You see they have to turn the well pump off in late October, which means no restroom in the parish hall. The 200-year-old sanctuary building has no pumping at all. So, the worship service MUST BE 45 minutes, no longer, so they can get to the home of whomever is hosting fellowship."

When Paul received the call to Macedonia, the scripture tells us that he left for there, immediately. Whether they heard and answered the call at once, or responded more slowly, give thanks for rural pastors and the churches they serve today.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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