

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Second Sunday after Pentecost

ONLINE WORSHIP

June 14, 2020

Welcome

**Prelude**      *“Abide With Me” by L. Evans*

**Call to Worship**      *from Isaiah 48:8*

Leader: Drop down, O heavens, from above.

**People:** Let the skies pour down righteousness.

Leader: Let the earth open, that salvation may spring up.

**People:** Let it cause righteousness to sprout up also.

Leader: Let us worship God.

**Hymn** “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

**1. Lift ev'ry voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith  
that the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope  
that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun  
Of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.**

**2. Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our people sighed?  
We have come over a way  
that with tears has been watered;**

We have come, treading our path  
through the blood of the slaughtered;  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

3. God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
You who have brought us thus far on the way;  
You who have by your might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places,  
our God, where we met you;  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine  
of the world, we forget you;  
Shadowed beneath your hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.

#### Unison Prayer of Confession

O Trinity of love and power,  
We confess that we often stray from your presence.  
You have offered us peace,  
yet our lives feel frustrating and unsettled in these challenging times.  
You offer us compassion,  
yet we feel neglected and resentful amid life's difficulties.  
You offer us a mission with justice, meaning and purpose,  
but we become preoccupied with our own plans and desires.  
Forgive us, O God, and draw our attention back to you  
so that we follow your guidance and trust you as our Shepherd. Amen.

#### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The good news is that Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again and again and again and again. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Glory be to God.

#### Time with Children

Lessons      Ruth 1:1-18, 22  
                  John 13:34-35

Sermon "Ruth's Life Matters"      Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo

## **Brief Musical Interlude**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory Music**    *"Nearer, My God, to Thee" by L. Evans*

### **Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Christ the Word made flesh born low  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore  
One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**Hymn "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" Tune: BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC**

**1. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
he hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;  
his truth is marching on.**

**Refrain:**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
His truth is marching on.**

2. I have seen him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps,  
they have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps;  
I can read his righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;  
his day is marching on. [Refrain]

3. He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;  
he is sifting out the hearts of all before his judgment seat.  
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!  
Our God is marching on. [Refrain]

4. In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;  
as he died to make us holy, let us die to make all free,  
while God is marching on. [Refrain]

**Benediction**

**Postlude**      “Gavotte” from French Suite No. 6 in E major, BWV 817, by J. S. Bach

*The Ministers are the Rev. Lynne Dolan and Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo.  
Our Music Director is Mr. Curtis Smith. Ms. Rachel Smith assisted in the worship service.*

*The flowers on the altar are given by Bill and Annette Davis to the Glory of God  
and in memory of Wendell T. & Betty D. Davis.*