

Youth Sunday



First Congregational Church of Anoka
United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation

April 28, 2024

This bulletin is designed to assist you as you watch our livestreamed worship service, whether you follow along live or view it at a later time. The stream can be found on our YouTube channel at this location:

<https://www.youtube.com/@AnokaUCC>

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Music

Don Shier

The Church Bell Rings

Melody Crawford

* Opening Hymn “Break the Cycle, Make a New World” SERVANT SONG (#539)

This hymn was inspired by the Youth Group’s reflections on Matthew 5:38-47.

**Break the cycle; make a new world.
Replace hate with love that’s true.
Disrupt silence! With your mercy,
faith, and love the earth imbue.**

**Bridges are not meant to fall down;
bridges help us cross the gap.
We are builders, not destroyers,
spreading kindness and respect.**

**Take back power for the building,
counter hate with hope alloyed;
break the cycle, end all suff’ring,
Come! O world of endless joy!**

* Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

Ava Gerads

(CtW adapts Isaiah 2:1-4; prayer by George Harrison)

One: In the days to come, God’s holy mountain shall become a home for all peoples.
Many: We shall come and say, “Let us go up to the house of the LORD!”

One: The Holy One will teach the many peoples the ways of justice, righteousness, and *shalom*.

Many: Teach us, O Fire of Sinai! Show us how to create a loving world free of hatred and violence!

One: The Creator will adjudicate among the nations, arbitrating for widows, orphans, and strangers throughout the world.

Many: The nations will melt down their weapons, reforging them into tools.

One: Nation will not war against nation!

Many: Neither shall they learn war anymore!

One: Truly it is the LORD of hosts who makes these promises;

Many: we praise you, O God, for your steadfast love!

One: Let us pray to God.

Many: Give me love; give me love. Give me peace on earth! Give me light, give me life, keep me free from birth. Give me hope! Help me cope with this heavy load, trying to touch and reach you with heart and soul. My Lord, please take hold of my hand, that I might understand you. Won't you please? Give me love, give me love, give me peace on earth! Amen.

A Time for Children (10:30)

Melody Crawford & Ava Gerads

Prayer of Preparation

“Amen, Amen” #161 (*alt lyrics*)

(refrain) Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen!

Jesus died and rose again **(amen)** / Mary found him waiting **(amen)**
on Easter morning! **(amen, amen, amen!)**

Easter brings us joy **(amen)** / joy and laughter **(amen)**
Let us all rejoice! **(amen, amen, amen!)**

Like a fiery phoenix **(amen)** / Jesus lives again **(amen)**
This is truly Good News! **(amen, amen, amen!)**

Special Music

“Lord, Listen to the River to Pray”

arr. Mike Benz

Anoka UCC String Band

*O Lord, listen to your children praying. O Lord, send your spirit to this place.
O Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

As I went down to the river to pray, studying about that good old way

*and who should wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way
O brothers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down,
Come on, brothers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.*

*Something's gonna happen, like the world has never known,
When the people of the Lord get down to pray.
A door's gonna swing open and the walls come a tumblin' down
When the people of the Lord get down to pray.*

Scripture Reading - Matthew 5:38-47 (*alt.*)

Claire Comstock

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰ and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹ and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴² Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of God in heaven; for she makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your siblings, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Henry Riley

Hymn

"We Would Be Building" #607

**We would be building; temples still undone
o'er crumbling walls their crosses scarcely lift,
waiting till love can raise the broken stone,
and hearts creative bridge the human rift.
We would be building, Architect Divine,
reveal the shape of life in your design.**

**Teach us to build; upon the solid rock
we set the dream that hardens into deed,
ribbed with fine steel, both time and change to mock,**

the-unfailing purpose of our noblest creed.
Teach us to build; O Maker, lend us sight
to see the towers gleaming in the light.

O keep us building, Savior; may our hands
ne'er falter when the dream is in our hearts,
when to our ears there come divine commands
and all the pride of sinful will departs.
We build with you; O grant enduring worth
until your promised realm shall come on earth.

Prayers of the People

If you wish to share a prayer with the congregation (joy, concern, hope, worry, or anything at all), raise your hand and a Deacon will bring you a microphone. Offer your prayer and finish by saying, "God in your love" to which we will all respond, "Hear our prayer."

Sung Prayer

"Bless the Lord"

Taizé Community

♩ = 76

Dm G Dm B^b C Dm

Dm G Dm B^b C F A

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Dm G Dm B^b C Dm

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Prayer of Our Savior (unison)

The Prayer has many versions; pray whichever you desire (debts, sins, trespasses, etc.). We affirm that God has many names, so use one of the suggested or another of your choosing.

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.

Offering

Text-to-Give: [844-334-1477](tel:844-334-1477)

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by sending your gifts by mail, text, or online (uccanoka.org/donate).
You can support the church further through the RaiseRight program:
www.raiseright.com. Our unique church ID is gWKLGX8TRZCN.

Offertory

Don Shier

* Doxology

DIX

“For the Beauty of the Earth” #28 v.4

**For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed.
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise!**

* Benediction

Henry Riley

* Easter Acclamation

“Now the Green Blade Rises” #238 (v.1)

**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;
Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green!**



Postlude

Don Shier

Acknowledgements

Scissors and Bunny Art by Claire Comstock.

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First Congregational Church, UCC of Anoka is an Open and Affirming Christian Community for all. We affirm that the image of God is most fully reflected in diversity. We invite all people to share their energy and talents in full participation with our community. We welcome all individuals and families of any sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, relationship status, race, national origin, socioeconomic status, age, mental and physical health or ability, or belief. Together, we celebrate these and all other facets of one's essential being.

