



First Congregational Church of Anoka United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

February 5, 2023 ♦ Youth Sunday



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>

Prelude

Koki Sato

Welcome & Announcements

If you are a guest with us today, welcome! If you are comfortable sharing your information with us, there are cards in the pew holders that you can use for that purpose (place them in the offering plate).

If you would like to join our mailing list, email office@uccanoka.org and ask to be added.

Choir Introit

“Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me”

arr. K. Lee Scott

Anoka UCC Chancel Choir; Don Shier, Director

*Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;
Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;
And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;
And, with actions bold and meek, for Christ, my Savior, speak.*

*Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;
Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;
And, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;
And, with actions brotherly, speak Christ’s sincerity.*

*Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;
Show thy mercy tenderly, make me more like thee;
Separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good,
And whatever I can be give him who gave me thee.*

*Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;
Help me now thy pow’r to see, I would be like thee;
‘Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield;
Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.*

Communion

Invitation

Once a month and at other times, we gather at this Table in this place to remember something essential and true about Jesus: that he invited others to dine at his table even as he accepted invitations to eat at the tables of others. He dined with tax collectors who were hated by their neighbors, women who were scorned by powerful men, and religious leaders against whom he preached a powerful word.

Jesus reminds us that no matter who we are, there is an open invitation to join him at this Table. It doesn't matter how many followers you have on Instagram, how many times you've been retweeted, or how many people clicked like on your latest post. God's grace is poured out like endless wine, freely given to all. There is no algorithm that governs who is loved in the Beloved Community of our God! So come, all you neighbors and friends, siblings in Christ and beloved of God. Come to this table and re-make a lasting connection. You are seen at this Table, always and forever, green and growing in the presence of the Holy One.

Prayer

We pray, Gracious One, that the hospitality of this table is not just for show and not just for clicks, but baked into the very bread that we eat today. May it not just fill our bodies, but transform them into vessels of your grace, spreading love and compassion throughout the world. May it be not just a simulation, but a true vision of the New Jerusalem that you promise is possible if we but love our neighbors as you love us. And now, as Jesus taught us, we pray:

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.

Words of Institution

On the night when Jesus was arrested, he first shared a meal with his closest friends. At his invitation, we do so again with our own friends, remembering him and the way that he taught us how a Table can become a place of Spirit and Grace.

At that meal, he took a loaf of bread, because that's what he had at hand. He divided it so that it might be more easily shared, and as he did, he blessed it, saying, "This bread is my body, and I give it to you, that you may remember me whenever you eat like this again."

After the meal, he took a common cup, one that again, he shared with his friends. He blessed the drink within, saying, "This cup is filled with the blood of the covenant, and I give it to you, that you may remember me whenever you drink of it again."

Serving

As he asked us to do, we share together in the bread and the cup, remembering him and the Beloved Community that he asked us to help build. Eat. Drink. Look up and see the Love that serves us all.

Open your containers and partake of the elements.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Let us pray in gratitude to God for the grace of this Table.

Many: Holy One, we thank you for untangling us from the lessons the world teaches, namely that each person's worth depends entirely on their popularity. May the Holy Spirit continue to teach us this lesson not just at the Table, but in all the moments of our lives, that we may in turn embrace that wholeness and affirm it in others. We pray this in the name of the One who came in your name to unravel lies and reveal Love. Amen!

A Time for Children (10:30)

ADVISORY: The livestream of the service continues during the Children's Time; if your child sits facing the Pastor their face shouldn't appear on camera.

Prayer of Preparation (*sung, unison*)

An Argentine folk song. 2nd English verse by Rev. Chris McArdle

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

**Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: you are holy, Lord!**

**Holy, holy, holy. Your Word, your Word, it fills us!
Give us the strength to hear and to do, Holy, Loving God!**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My
 ¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi



heart knows how to say to you: You are ho - ly, Lord!
 co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res, Dios!

**Holy, holy, holy. Your Word, your Word, it fills us!
 Give us the strength to hear and to do, Holy, Loving God!**

*(10:30) Children ages 3 and up may depart at this time for Sunday school.
 Activity supplies are available in the back of the sanctuary for those who might enjoy them.*

Scripture Reading – Psalm 121 (adapted)

Lector, **Congregation**

I lift up my eyes to the hills, and I wonder:

from where does my help come?

My help comes from God, the loving creator of both heaven and earth.

The Sovereign One will guard you from stumbling, even giving up sleep to keep watch.

The Creator watches over Israel and all the peoples with open eyes.

The Divine Mother is your protector, and the shade that preserves you in blessed coolness.

The Ancient of Days will shield you from harm, preserving your life with grace.

Now and forever, the Holy One will keep you as you come and go.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed

Anoka UCC Youth Group

For the 2022-2023 Youth Group year, we have been studying the Psalms.

This song is an original Psalm, written by our Youth Group in collaboration with youth leader Cole Marshall.

If you feel comfortable singing along with the refrain please feel free to do so!

*Self-strangulations, internet bound; embody dissention, the white noise is so loud
Abandon your mind, and now you're spiraling out;
always scroll up to bring yourself back down*

***Lift up your spirit and put down your cell
you rarely find grace in the lies that they sell
untangle lock screens and grow in Your presence
make lasting collections, not profile semblance***

*Addicted to depression, the need to be seen, retweeting toxicity to fight the flow of the feed.
Can't break the matrix in a forced simulation, the choices are chosen to form stimulation.*

(refrain, three times)

The Word Interpreted

Henry Riley

Hymn

Psalm 121

We will sing these words to the tune AMAZING GRACE (#547)

**I to the hills will lift my eyes; from whence shall come my aid?
My help is from the Lord alone, who heaven and earth has made.**

**God will not let your foot be moved; your guardian never sleeps;
God's watchful and unslumbering care protects and safely keeps.**

**Your faithful keeper is the Lord, your shelter and your shade.
'Neath sun or moon, by day or night, you shall not be afraid.**

**From evil God will keep you safe, provide for all you need.
Your going out, your coming in, God will forever lead.**

Check-In

*At Youth Group, we often begin or close our time together with a "check-in."
It's very much like Prayers of the People in a "joys and concerns" format.
We invite the congregation to "check-in" at this time, that we may bear witness
to each other's stories, and by that sharing, draw upon each other's strength.*

Offering

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

*Thank you for your gifts to our ministries!
If you are watching from home (live or later), please consider adding to the Offering*

by sending your gifts by mail, text, or online (uccanoka.org/donate).
Your gifts allow us to strengthen and sustain our digital ministry!

Offertory

Koki Sato

* Doxology

NUN DANKET

“Now Thank We All Our God” #419 v. 3

**All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,
to Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven.
The one, eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore!**

Benediction

Anoka UCC Youth Group

**Lift up your spirit and put down your cell
you rarely find grace in the lies that they sell
untangle lock screens and grow in Your presence
make lasting collections, not profile semblance**

Congregational Blessing

“God Be With You” (#809)

Dorsey/Hutchins

**God be with you. God be with you. God be with you ‘til we meet again.
O God be with you. God be with you. God be with you ‘til we meet again.**

Postlude

Koki Sato

*You may be seated as you listen to the Postlude. If you choose to depart at this time,
please speak gently as you exit out of respect for those who choose to listen.*

Acknowledgements

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Minister of Visitation – Kelsey Renk

Director of Music Ministries – Don Shier

Keyboardist – Koki Sato

Moderator – Terja Larsen

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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.