



# Cultivating Community

## COMPASS OF COMPASSION

6.26.22



### Welcome!

*We are glad that you chose to join us for worship this morning. We hope that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you will feel welcome here.*

**Guide to the bulletin:** As you follow along in our worship service today, here are a few cues for using this bulletin. An asterisk (\*) indicates that those gathered are invited to rise in body and/or spirit. Text printed in **BOLD** in the bulletin indicates everyone says them together. **NCH** is the New Century Hymnal in the holder by your pew chair.

**Children:** Children are always welcome here. If you would like to have your younger children taken care of during the service, we have a nursery available at 9:30 a.m. If you prefer, your children are welcome to stay with you through the worship service, or they may attend our Sunday School.

**You can read more about today's activities at Memorial UCC in the announcements on the last page of the bulletin.**

## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Opening Song NCH 21    God Reigns o'er All the Earth    verses 1 & 2

God reigns o'er all the Earth! Green hills and valleys low,  
The farms and towns in gold and browns  
God's grace and beauty show.  
God reigns o'er all the Earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,  
In rainbow hues—reds, yellows, and blues—  
Of streams and country lanes.

God reigns o'er human life! Through youth and aging years,  
In death, in birth, in grief, in mirth,  
in all our hopes and fears.  
God reigns o'er human life! Our inspiration still.  
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams,  
We see God's reigning will.

#### \*Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

**One:** In our search for relief from all that destroys life,

**All: God draws us into the heart of Love.**

**One:** Guiding us through lands unknown,

**All: God companions us on the journey.**

**One:** With the Holy as our guide,

**All: We will encounter Jesus enfleshed.**

#### \*Opening Prayer

Mysterious One, throughout the ages you have been revealing yourself in new ways, drawing us more deeply into relationship with you. In Jesus, you took on flesh that we might recognize your presence with us - weeping with us, eating with us, struggling and dreaming with us. Keep us open, O God, to the ways you continue to reveal your love in our midst today. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Bolton, Rev. Molly, "enfleshed: Liturgy That Matters," enfleshed, January 6, 2019, <https://enfleshed.com/>.

**\*Opening Song NCH 8      Praise to the Living God**

vs 1 & 4

**Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,  
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns  
and set the worlds in flight;  
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,  
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.**

**Praise to the living God, around, within, above,  
Beyond the grasp of human mind,  
But whom we know as love.  
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,  
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.**

**HEARING THE WORD**

**The Good News: Part 1      Matthew 2:1-6**

**Special Music**

**The Good News: Part 2      Matthew 2:7-12**

**Time with Children**

Kaitlin Young

**Reflection      Cultivating Community: Compass of Compassion**

Rev. Jerry Hancock

**SHARING OUR LIVES**

**Call to Prayer NCH 769**

**Hear Our Prayer O God**

*We will be singing the Call to Prayer as a congregation this morning.*

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;  
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

**Prayers of the People**

*During our blended worship service, Jerry will be collecting prayers in the sanctuary. If you are worshiping with us on Zoom or YouTube, you are encouraged to email your prayer requests to the church office, [memorialucc.org](mailto:memorialucc.org). Emailed prayers will be added to Memorial's prayer chain.*

## **Prayer of Jesus**

**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 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: Extravagant Generosity**

*On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, we celebrate God's abundance by taking a moment to intentionally reflect on the many ways we joyously give.*

## **Offertory**

### **\*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 Dedication<sup>2</sup>**

**Holy One, in a spirit of awe we offer these gifts. For you have led us to Love, invited us to linger in its presence, and promised us that no matter where we go, Love will go with us. May the offerings we have shared in our hearts also be swept up into the embrace of Love to be channeled in the direction of all who hunger for your presence. Amen.**

## **GOING OUT TO THE WORLD**

### **\*Song for Going Out NCH 77 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing**

verses 1 & 2

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;  
fill our hearts with joy and peace.  
Let us each your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
Oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.**

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<sup>2</sup> Bolton, Rev. Mooly, "enfleshed: Liturgy That Matters," enfleshed, January 6, 2019, <https://enfleshed.com/>.

**We give thanks and adoration  
for your gospel's joyful sound;  
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound:  
Ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.**

**\*Benediction**

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**Worship Leaders:** Marty Smith (Pianist) and Rev. Jerry Hancock

**Readers:** Sonjia Short and Terry Hoffman

**Ushers:** Jay Johnson and Jean Prueher

**Media Room:** Scott Oebser

**Camera Tech:** Zac Johnson

**Fellowship Hosts:** Volunteer needed

Memorial UCC's ONE LICENSE for streaming: #A-711042

**Refreshments and Conversation:** Today following worship, you are invited to stay for conversations and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Worship generally runs until around 10:30 a.m. or shortly after. Sunday School also runs until about 10:30 a.m. If the service goes over, students will rejoin you in worship. If it goes under, you are free to go to fellowship until Sunday School ends.

**Memorial's COVID Protocols:** With prayerful consideration of the health and wellness of the members and friends of the congregation our current **COVID protocols are:**

- **Wearing a mask in the building is optional.** Anyone may choose to wear a mask at any time. Please remember that some individuals wear a mask at any time even if they are fully vaccinated. A face mask can be viewed as a sign of care and concern for oneself and others. Please respect people's choices and privacy. We have **masks available** by the church office for those who wish to wear one.
- **We will be singing during worship.**
- **Masks are optional for youth and teachers during Sunday School.**
- **Masks are required in the nursery area.**

**Hearing Loop and Listening Devices:** For those who have hearing aids, Memorial UCC has a t-coil compatible hearing loop. Listening devices are also available for people who are hard-of-hearing. See an usher if you need assistance.



**Bathrooms:** There are two bathrooms near the main entrance of the church. A third, Gender Neutral and Accessible bathroom is in the hallway by the nursery. If you need assistance finding the restrooms, an usher will be happy to help you!

**Giving Options—Ever-Widening Opportunities:** Checks can be mailed directly to the church or dropped off during our morning office hours. Indicate in the memo line whether the giving is to Memorial operating costs or help to our community wide nonprofit partners. Memorial UCC also offers an opportunity for you to give via PayPal! You can give securely via charge card, debit card, and direct withdrawal donations. Giving online through PayPal is fast and secure, and you do not even need to have a PayPal account to use the service to make one-time or



recurring donations. Visit [memorialucc.org](http://memorialucc.org) and click on the "donate" button in the lower, right-hand corner to make your gift. You can also simply scan the QR code here to be directed to our PayPal donations page. Thank you to those who regularly give electronically. Checks can be mailed directly to the church. Indicate in the memo line whether the giving is to Memorial operating costs or help to our community wide

nonprofit partners. If you are interested in our monthly automatic withdrawal system, please email Cathy Halpin at [halpincjo@gmail.com](mailto:halpincjo@gmail.com) and she will get you signed up.

**Want to Know More About Us?** Pastor Kris would be happy to set up a time to chat further. Feel free to contact her at [pastorkris@memorialucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@memorialucc.org). You don't need to be a formal member to get involved here. There is a lot of information on our website at [www.memorialucc.org](http://www.memorialucc.org). You can also follow us on Facebook (@FitchburgMemorialUCC), Twitter (@MemUCC), or join our Facebook group Memorial UCC: Ever-Widening Circles.