

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
Sunday February 21, 2021**



“For Stage One Jews, Christians, and Muslims, God is the Big Person in the sky who sets the rules, demands trust, requires obedience, and mandates punishment when rules are broken. God authorizes Big People to exercise delegated divine authority, whether in the home, faith community, city, state, or nation, and if we trust our authorities enough to believe and do what they tell us, we can have the same absolute certainty that they have... the certainty that we are the good people, and all who are not part of our in-group are the bad people, the certainty that we will have a happy ending and those other people will not. So for the rest of our lives, it will be our job to avoid bad people, to exclude them, eliminate them, control them, or convert them, because in the end, it’s either us or them.” - *Faith After Doubt*, Brian D. McLaren

Welcome to our church family!

Prelude—"Christ, Mighty Savior" arr. by Anne Krentz Organ
Offered by Shelley Fisher

Tolling of the Bell

Welcome

Opening Hymn #21 – "This Is My Father's World"
Offered by Vince Chew & Shelley Fisher

(1) This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas- his hand the wonders wrought. (2) This is our Father's world: O let us not forget that though the wrong is great and strong, God is the ruler yet. He trusts us with his world, to keep it clean and fair- all earth and trees, all skies and seas, all creatures everywhere. (3) This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair; in the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere. This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad? The Lord is King, let heaven ring! God reigns; let earth be glad!

1st Reading – James 1:5-8

Music for Reflection

2nd Reading – I John 3:1-10

Special Music – "Every Breath You Take" by The Police
Offered by Toby Jones & Shelley Fisher

Morning Message – "When All Was Simple and Clear" – Stage One Faith
Offered by Toby Jones, Pastor

Sermon Hymn #67 – "Come, We That Love the Lord"
Offered by Vince Chew & Shelley Fisher

(1) Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known, join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne. (2) Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God; but children of the heavenly King may speak their joys abroad. (3) The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets (4) Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry; we're marching through Emmanuel's ground to fairer worlds on high.

Morning Offering

Offertory Music—"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" arr. Michael Hassell
Offered by Vince Chew & Shelley Fisher

The Doxology

Morning Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn #66 – “To God Be the Glory”

Offered by Vince Chew & Shelley Fisher

(1) To God be the glory, great things he hath done; so loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done. (2) O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God; the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon received. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done. (3) Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude- “Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior” arr. by Anne Krentz Organ

Offered by Shelley Fisher



The Cummings Quartet
LIVE VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE
The Cummings Quartet
OUT OF THE DARKNESS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 • 2:00PM
LIVE ON YOUTUBE

On Sunday, February 21, the Cummings String Quartet will present a special live virtual performance titled, *Out of the Darkness*. This special concert reflects the emerging hope of living in a post-COVID world. Join us live on YouTube, as the CSQ performs Beethoven's String Quartet No. 10 (also known as the Harp Quartet), and Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 1.

dorothygerberstrings.org

The Cummings Quartet Live on YouTube

Please join us Today, February 21st at 2:00PM for a wonderful winter concert. You have heard their solo works during worship now hear their collaboration.

Concert link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW0eObvozDqlK5znOR60JgQ>

A Message from the Moderator...

As we start to loosen the restrictions on access to the building for meetings, we need to do so in a controlled, measured fashion. I would like to establish the following controls:

- Schedule all meetings through Leah in the Office- only one meeting at a time is allowed
- Limit the number of people to 10 & take attendance for contact tracing
- Always require masks
- Encourage the use of hand sanitizers
- Set-up your meeting room to meet the 6-foot social distancing rule
- Limit the length of the meeting to one hour
- Email me at moderator@chxucc.org of the plan for your meeting.

For now, if anyone on your committee is uncomfortable attending a meeting in-person, please continue to hold the meeting remotely on Zoom. In the future, we will phase in a combination of in-person and Zoom meetings.

-Bill Trubilowicz

Sunday 02/21	Mon 02/22	Tues. 02/23	Wed. 02/24	Thurs. 02/25	Fri. 02/26	Sat. 02/27	Sunday 02/28
10:30 am In-Person & live-streamed Worship 2:00 pm The Cummings Quartet YouTube	5:15pm Church Council Mtg 6:00 pm Pantry	10:00 am Bible Study Zoom & In-Person	10:00 am By-laws meeting Zoom 7:00pm Lent Book Study Zoom				10:30 am In-Person & live- streamed Worship

Prayer Requests

Healing	Charlie Johnson-stroke (Joyce & Bruce Herbert's grandson)	Kirk Gunderson- Heart attack
Prayers	Covid-19 Patients	Essential Workers Teachers and Students
Joys		
Grieving	Bob Dominic and Molly Tate on the death of Bob's son, Doug.	