

Greetings members and friends of First Congregational Church of Shelburne,

This week's Worship Resource is also the order of service for our first Parking Lot Worship Service this Sunday at 10:30 AM in the lot by our hall. If you wish to attend, you will need to make a reservation with Diantha at 413-625-6592 or email foxtowne@gmail.com. There is a limited number of parking places. Please refer to the email sent from Roland Giguere this past Thursday concerning the details concerning this service.

There is no Sunday video this week and we hope to post a video of the Parking Lot Service during the coming week.

The Pastoral Search Committee has completed two all church conversations via Zoom. The third conversation will take place on Sunday, September 13 and include questions concerning the future ministries of the church. Your participation is important as the Search team finishes the Church Profile.

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday morning!

Faithfully Yours,

Pastor Rob

Welcome to Sunday Worship August 30, 2020

Good Morning to our members and friends at home,

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If you will be attending the service, please print out this order of service and bring it with you.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Morning has Broken*

Call to Worship Responsive

L Like trees planted along the riverbank, may we be rooted in you, O God.

P Like trees planted along the riverbank, may we bear the fruit of our ministry each season.

L Like trees planted along the riverbank, may we prosper in all we do in the name of Christ.

Opening Hymn: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Unison Morning Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Gracious God quieten our minds and still our hearts. For your ways of living in our day are all we seek. Strengthen our lives. Inspire our spirits for in your living waters flow endless grace. Hear our prayer as Jesus did teach, saying...*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.*

Prayers of the People

Today's prayers are all about hospitality and welcome reflected in the love of God and in our response to that love. Please include the following prayer requests:

Prayers for the family of Margaret "Peg" (Gould) Temple who passed away in July. Her family is having a graveside service on this Saturday in Shelburne. She grew up in town and is related to the Wheelers; her family was active in the Church here.

Prayers for those who are "stressed out". Those who feel so short-tempered lately; those struggling with aging parents; tired of being disconnected with their neighbors, clubs and activities due to COVID-19; and struggling with politics and race relations in the US.

Prayers for those who are unsure of the future - those awaiting medical tests, opinions and operations; those who are unsure about their employment; those missing friends and family; those concerned about "remote learning" and those concerned about "in-person learning".

Prayers for our government and community leaders who need to learn how to lead together - rather than how to lead us apart.

Prayers for the caregivers - the nurses, clergy, family members, and everyone who cares.

Prayers for the Search Committee who are working hard to look, think, ask and discern the future of our church.

Prayers for the family of Russell and Martha Davenport as they lay them both to rest this afternoon.

Let us come to God in prayer.

Gracious God, who in Jesus of Nazareth said, "*come unto me, all who are weary and heavy laden*", who said, "*let the children come unto me*," who said, "*any who welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me.*" Who said, "*I have been sent to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, comfort the afflicted and bring cheer to the broken of heart.*" We are most grateful, that you beckon to us, invite us, welcome us, into the one household of your love. That the weary and heavy laden may find your peace. That the children may experience your touch in their lives. That the hungry be feed, the naked clothed, the broken and afflicted comforted and healed. We are thankful that in Christ, we are granted such unconditional love and extravagant hospitality. From this household, O God, you have done great work. From this household, O God, you have done great work through this congregation. From generation to generation you have invited and welcomed those who have known you, and those who have just discovered you. Those who were weary and heavy laden, and those full of the joy of life. From this household, O God, your Spirit continues to touch, heal, inspire, impassion and ignite our hearts. Grant, O God, that as members of your house, that we may be channels of your peace. That we may beckon, invite and welcome, all who seek your peace and your healing, all who yearn to know you better and discover

the joy of being your hands and feet in this world. Grant, O God, that as members of your house, that we may offer our hospitality to all who come here. That those who seek will find you in our midst. That those who knock, will always find an open door in this your house, and that in so doing, we come to see you in those we welcome. Loving God be with us in this time and in this place. Empower our ministry with the gifts of your Holy Spirit, and hear now these our prayers and the voices of our hearts. (Silent prayer and meditation)
We pray this in Christ's name. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:9-13

Sermon: *The Parable of Two Drinking Establishments*

HYMN: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Benediction

Our thanks to this morning's participants: Lora Graves, Tim Graves & Paul Hadley, and a special thank you to the Re-Opening Task Force and the Executive Committee for making this service a reality and for their support this morning in greeting, parking and welcoming.