

**Second Congregational Church in Newcastle,  
United Church of Christ, Newcastle, Maine**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 12, 2021, 10:00 AM**



Photo © Joan Atkinson; Used with permission.

### **INVITATION**

Welcome to Hybrid/In-Person Worship with Second Congregational Church! Whether you are joining us as we return to our sanctuary, have chosen to connect by Facebook Live or YouTube, or are using different devices at various places or are even watching a recording on a different day, we enter this sacred time together. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We are devoted to hospitality, generosity and care of all our neighbors and each other!

***Joining us from away by device:*** Please join us at 10AM via Facebook Live at [www.facebook.com/secondcongo](http://www.facebook.com/secondcongo). Currently the chat/comment functions will not be monitored during the live service, so we invite you to submit your prayer requests prior to Sunday mornings by email at [pastor@secondcongo.org](mailto:pastor@secondcongo.org). Before the time of the service, you may want to prepare a simple worship space. Perhaps you can light a candle, have a Bible with you, set your table with a cross, pillar candle, a plant or flower or other symbols of faith that bring you comfort. Include the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith. Whatever it is, follow your heart.

***Thank you for your preparation.***

*Let us now be present to the Spirit, which brings us together and loves us wherever we are!*

+ + + + +

### **GATHERING MUSIC**

David O'Brien, keyboard

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CENTERING MOMENT**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 46):<sup>1</sup>**

God is our refuge and our strength,  
a firm presence in times of trouble.

We will not be afraid.

**We can be calm though the earth shakes,  
though the lands and nations rage and change,**

---

<sup>1</sup> This morning's Call to Worship and Prayer of Illumination were written by Rev. Char Corbett, 8/25/2021.

**and though the seas rise and roar and foam.**

Our unshakable trust is in the Holy One,  
who is making the heavens in the earth,  
who is unmoved at the break of dawn,

**Who is with us in the midst of the city  
and in our own hearts.**

See the miracles that are a part of our lives every day!

**Hear the longings for peace, mercy and justice in our hearts!**

Help us to know the many ways our lives are filled with abundance  
in nearly any circumstance.

**All: God whispers to us, "Be still and know that I am God.**

**I am with you to the ends of the universe, and through all time."**

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN 98**

**"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"**

Roeder



1. God of the spar - row,	God of the whale,	God of the swirl - ing	stars. _____
2. God of the earth - quake,	God of the storm,	God of the trum - pet	blast. _____
3. God of the rain - bow,	God of the cross,	God of the emp - ty	grave. _____
4. God of the hun - gry,	God of the sick,	God of the prod - i - gal.	_____
5. God of the neigh - bor,	God of the foe,	God of the prun - ing	hook. _____
6. God of the a - ges,	God near at hand,	God of the lov - ing	heart. _____



How do your crea-tures say	"Awe?" _____	How do your crea-tures say	"Praise?" _____
How do your crea-tures say	"Woe?" _____	How do your crea-tures say	"Save?" _____
How do your crea-tures say	"Grace?" _____	How do your crea-tures say	"Thanks!" _____
How do your crea-tures say	"Care?" _____	How do your crea-tures say	"Life?" _____
How do your crea-tures say	"Love?" _____	How do your crea-tures say	"Peace?" _____
How do your chil - dren say	"Joy!" _____	How do your chil - dren say	"Home?" _____

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**Glorious Light-Bearer, into the shadows of our isolation you speak words of life and community. You call us from the places we hide to lead us more deeply into the world you love. With your grounded and healing touch of mercy, You redeem the broken places of our lives and You heal the wounded places of the earth. Your love will not be moved by our careless ways. Therefore, inspire our worship today. Lead us to receive liberation in Your word, and to be empowered to share Your reconciling love throughout the earth. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

Matthew 7:21-29

Bill Bausch, reader

**SERMON:**

"A Rock in the Sea Isn't Afraid of the Rain"

Rev. Char Corbett, pastor

**ANTHEM**

"Built on a Rock"

Jay Althouse

## LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With all our heart and all our mind, we pray to You,

**O Lord, make us instruments of your peace.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you,

**O Lord, where there is hatred, let us sow love.**

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, especially those who are led to acts of terror; that in the aftermath of the destruction in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 we may grow ever more deeply in your spirit of justice and peace, we pray to you,

**O Lord, where there is injury, let us sow pardon.**

For all who believe in you, Lord Christ, and all those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may be delivered from the darkness of fanaticism and hatred, pride and prejudices and instead be brought into your truth and light, so that divisions that foster violence may cease, we pray to you,

**O Lord, where there is discord, let us sow union.**

For those who have lost their faith in you Lord God, for those who continue to mourn those who died in the World Trade Center, the airplanes and the Pentagon, may your Church give comfort and hope in this time of remembrance, we pray to you,

**O Lord, where there is doubt, let us sow faith.**

For all those whose spirit has been broken and whose lives have been irrevocably disrupted by the violence of that day and its aftermath, we offer our prayers along with the persecuted, the lonely, and the sick who have bid our prayers today, that they may be relieved and protected. We pray to you,

**O Lord, where there is despair, let us sow hope.**

For the mission and ministry of the Church, that we may listen to the Gospel of reconciliation and proclaim it in word and action for the building of your reign here on earth, we pray to you,

**O Lord, where there is darkness, let us sow light.**

For all who died in the terror of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 and for those others whom we remember today, for those who believed in your resurrection and those who knew not your promise of eternal life, in trust that they have been found by you and are at rest in your holy habitation, we pray to you,

**O Lord, where there is sadness, let us sow joy.**

We bring to you all the concerns of our congregation, Second Congregational Church in Newcastle, United Church of Christ. We ask our blessing on all that we do and also ask your forgiveness for any mistakes that we have made in our ministry because we have acted too brashly or failed to act at all, harming those in need of our compassion and mercy...

*(silence);*

And we pray for the forgiveness of our own sins, where we too have missed the mark and done harm, known or unknown *(silence);*

May we know your healing grace and mercy in all that we do, we pray this to you,

**O Lord, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.**

Take heart, in Christ we have been reconciled to God.

**For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are reborn to eternal life. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(Second Church follows the version of the Lord's Prayer that is offered below. However, you are invited to say this prayer aloud in whichever tradition that brings you comfort):*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

### **INVITATION TO GIVING**

*We are currently not passing the plate during worship. Instead, you are invited to leave an offering before or after the worship service in the plates set on the rear tables. We also encourage those in worship and those who join us remotely to consider visiting our website [www.secondcongo.org](http://www.secondcongo.org) for secure on-line donation options.*

### **\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

**"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves." May we recognize the signs springing up amid the roaring confusion and stand firm in our generosity of spirit and love for God's world. May our gifts of time, talent and treasure build a sturdy and faithful path of comfort, blessing, hope, and compassion to all in need. Amen.**

### **\* DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God for whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.**

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE – COVID STYLE**

*(Say a word of peace in your mind. When you are ready, tap your temples, draw the words into your palms and then hold out your hands, spreading your fingers and releasing your thoughts of peace as an offering to the world.)*

### **\*HYMN 53**

**"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"  
(NEXT PAGE)**

Regent Square

### **BENEDICTION**

Go out into the world, giving thanks for all of God's blessings. God uses people – people like you and me – to share the good news that God's grace and love are for everyone.

**May our gratitude be the firm foundation upon which God's kingdom is built. Let us share the good news wherever we go. Amen.**

### **POSTLUDE**

**"Toccata in F Major"**

Dietrich Buxtehude

\* \* \* \* \*

*“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”*

1. Christ is made the sure foun-da - tion, Christ, the head and cor - ner-stone,  
 2. To this tem - ple, where we call thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, to - day!  
 3. Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants What they ask of thee to gain;  
 4. Laud and ho - nor to the Fa - ther, Laud and ho - nor to the Son,

Chos - en of the Lord and pre - cious, Bind - ing all the church in one;  
 With thy wont - ed lov - ing kind - ness Hear thy peo - ple as they pray.  
 What they gain from thee for - ev - er With the bless - ed to re - tain,  
 Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it, Ev - er Three and ev - er One.

Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, And her con - fl - dence al - lone.  
 And thy full - est ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in its walls al - way.  
 And here - af - ter in thy glo - ry, Ev - er - more with thee to reign.  
 One in might, and One in glo - ry, While un - end - ing a - ges run.

***Today's Worship has been prepared, sent out, offered and led by:***

- ▶ **Bill Bausch**, Communications & Technology Support; Snippets Meister
- ▶ **Mary Berger and Jack Banta**, Greeters
- ▶ **Arne Aho**, Scripture Reader
- ▶ **Char Corbett**, Pastor
- ▶ **Jim Corbett**, Videographer and Technical Support
- ▶ **Jane Wilmot**, Minister of Music
- ▶ **Lonnie Andersen**, Deacon on Duty

*Unless otherwise noted, permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-725951. All rights reserved.*

**Have a question about Second Church or today's service? A concern or a joy to share? A prayer request? We're here to listen and respond! Contact our Pastor, Deacons or Pastoral Relations Committee:**

- ▶ **Lonnie Andersen**, Deacon/Spirit Team Chairperson: [lonnieba@gmail.com](mailto:lonnieba@gmail.com)
- ▶ **Bill Bausch**, Pastoral Relations Committee: [wbausch@gmail.com](mailto:wbausch@gmail.com)
- ▶ **Kristin Brown**, Deacon: [kristinbrown222@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbrown222@gmail.com)
- ▶ **Rev. Char Corbett**, Pastor: [pastor@secondcongo.org](mailto:pastor@secondcongo.org)
- ▶ **Rick Hagen**, Deacon/Pastoral Relations Committee: [rickhagenmaine@gmail.com](mailto:rickhagenmaine@gmail.com)
- ▶ **Judy Jones**, Deacon: [judy.t.r.jones@gmail.com](mailto:judy.t.r.jones@gmail.com)
- ▶ **David Lawrence**, Pastoral Relations Committee: [lawrence@tidewater.net](mailto:lawrence@tidewater.net)
- ▶ **Carl Nord**, Moderator: [chnord@twc.com](mailto:chnord@twc.com)
- ▶ **Rev. Ann Roundy**, Pastoral Relations Committee: [revaroundy@gmail.com](mailto:revaroundy@gmail.com)