

***No matter who you are***

***or where you are on life’s journey,***

***you are welcome here.***

17 May 2020 10:00am

***“Seasons of Life – Embracing the Day”***

**Welcome**

**Gathering Prayer-**

**Artist God, to mark our days and nights, You made the glowing moon, starry light, shimmering black sky, and the coral dawn to billow the sun at its rising. At this moment in our lives, time seems to run together. Our days and nights blend one into the other, we scream, lament, and reconcile ourselves with you in faith that grounds our being. Empower us to stand with our feet planted firmly on the earth, to hear birds sing, to confess our missteps, and to receive the powerful gift of your grace. In being together part, help our love for one another shine through and beyond our angst . . .** *(Hold Silence)*

**On this day gathered together-apart, we continue praying specifically for those we know by name and those we know in heart:**

**Gratitude for the love and care of this faith community; Patti S-R. and family on the death of her mother; Trish M. & family on the death of her father; Sue C. on the death of her sister; the family and friends of Jack in the completion of his suicide; Steve L. recovering from surgery; Janice B. in Apple Rehab.; Sally G., mother of Jean; Carl F.; Ben, father of Sandra W.; Cindy M.’s diagnosis of lung cancer; Lauren with a high-risk pregnancy; the mother of Alison L.; Mary-Lynn O.; Liz L. and family; John, Crissy, Nathan and Dylan; Mary and those awaiting diagnosis; the people in NYC, those in Village Zendo,** **for medical staff distraught, even to the point of taking their own lives;**  **for Grace and all hospital chaplains; those suffering from the virus, those who are grieving; all those struggling with difficult diagnoses; those living with chronic diseases, dementia and cancer, and their families; those living with domestic violence; families dealing with addictions; those who suffer; natural and human-made disasters;** **and for peace and health for all.**

**Our Father *(or Creator)*, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom *(kin-dom)* come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom *(kin-dom)*, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn**

**10:16 Moment** Judi Wallace

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory Music:**

**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.***

*(You are welcome to sing your preferred version of the Doxology.)*

# Scripture:

**Sermon:** Caryne Eskridge

and Rev. Dr. Brasher-Cunningham

**Commission/Benediction**

**Postlude:**

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**Offerings:** These are challenging days and we trust First Church will weather them. Our ministries are continuing, albeit in different ways. We know that some are not in a position to give or keep up with their pledge at this time, and we hold you in prayer. We are bound by covenant and trust that those of us able to give more, will. If you are able to continue to give, thank you.

**Passing the Peace and Fellowship Hour:** Share the peace of Christ and catch up with some First Church folks you have not seen in a while.

This photograph of flowers is offered by

**Clergy Phone Hours: Please call** 203-453-5249 to speak with Ginger (ext. 204) Tues., 9-11am; or Jake (ext. 205) Wed., 2-4pm.

**Worship Sunday, May 24th 10am Church worship emailed.**

**Welcome to First Congregational Church!**

**We are thankful** that you are worshiping with us, and we hope that you have found inspiration and fellowship. If we can be of service to you, please contact one of us:

The Rev. Dr. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham, Lead Minister, [ginger@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:ginger@firstchurchguilford.org)

The Rev. Jake Miles Joseph, Minister of Faith Formation, [jake@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:jake@firstchurchguilford.org)

William C. Speed, Director of Music Ministries, [bill@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:bill@firstchurchguilford.org)

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Mark Twombly, Sexton, [mark@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:mark@firstchurchguilford.org)

Carlo Pappolla, Sunday & Special Event Sexton

Nancy Kelly, Director of Junior Choir

The Rev. Dr. Sandra Wiens, Prison Ministry Coordinator, [sandra@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:sandra@firstchurchguilford.org)

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