

 ***No matter who you are***

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

 ***you are welcome here.***

24 May 2020 10:00am

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

**Welcome**

**Gathering Prayer-**

**Source of life, God of hope,**

**Together-apart we gather again, grateful that you are walking with us in our collective story of separation. We celebrate that you promise to journey with us as we struggle with situations beyond our control. We ache for all who are facing illness and death without their loved ones by their side. We pray that they feel your presence cover them. May the human companionship offered by generous medical folks serve as a bridge for their family and friends. We give you thanks, O God, for all who are working to meet our health and physical needs. Surround them with your care, provide them courage, and let them feel our deep appreciation. Holy One, forgive us when our focus is shallow and our inability to connect willful. As we relax in your grace-giving love, may we practice extending grace to others. Hear us now in the silence as we utter the words that only our hearts can speak … We now pray for those known to our community and beyond:**

**Gratitude for the love and care of this faith community; all graduates; Gilda, mother of Lou F.; Peter, son of Sally K, recovering from surgery; Patti S-R. and family on the death of her mother; Ben, father of Sandra Wiens; Janice B. in Apple Rehab.; Sally G., mother of Jean; Carl F.; 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, for Grace and all hospital chaplains; those suffering from the virus, those who are grieving; all those struggling with difficult diagnoses; family and friends of those who have completed suicide and those contemplating suicide; 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.**

**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: Exodus 11:16:9-21

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for God has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+16%3A9-21&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-1963a)] For they did not know what it was. Moses replied, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has said: ‘Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer- amount to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.’” The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. But when they measured the amount, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed. And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it over until morning.” But they did not listen to Moses; some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul. And Moses was angry with them. Morning by morning they gathered it, as much as each needed; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

**Sermon:** “Are We There Yet?”

 Rev. Milton 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 31st 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

 The Rev. Jake Miles Joseph, Minister of Faith Formation, jake@firstchurchguilford.org

 William C. Speed, Director of Music Ministries, bill@firstchurchguilford.org

 Judi Wallace, Acting Director of Children and Youth, judi@firstchurchguilford.org

 Penelope Rebuzzini, Office Manager, office@firstchurchguilford.org

 Terri King, Finance Office Manager, terri@firstchurchguilford.org

 Mark Twombly, Sexton, 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

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