

 ***No matter who you are***

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

 ***you are welcome here.***

14 June 2020 10:00am

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

***Confirmation***

**Welcome**

**Introit:**

**Gathering Prayer-**

**As our country makes a turn toward justice renouncing our legacy of racism, we gather in your love God of all.**

**In your divine-unconditional love, and with hope for an equitable world, we send out our seniors with blessing. In a time that bears uncertainty as the theme, we pray for their hearts to hold people close even as they remain physically distant. We pray for them to build community beyond what they have known. We pray for their spirits as they wait to attend college or go to work or engage in service or pause to breathe as they seek what is next.**

**For each person juggling these days, Eternal One, we pray for comfort, solace, and hope. Empower us to examine our hearts and stretch our minds as we explore missed opportunities to love, or just be gracious. Forgive us when we miss the mark of love and care. Help us release our defensiveness and improve our understanding. Be with all who ache with sorrow, long for fellowship, or yearn for connection.**

**Hear us as we pray for the world wide and the world close by . . .** *(Hold Silence)*

**For all graduates; Cindy C. on the death of her father; Wally H. and family on their son’s death;** **Preston M. recovering from knee surgery; Gilda, mother of Lou F.; Peter, son of Sally K, recovering from surgery; Cindy M.’s diagnosis of lung cancer; the mother of Alison L.; Mary-Lynn O.; parents who cannot visit their children and grandchildren; those awaiting diagnosis; 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.**

We continue praying as Jesus taught, saying:

**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.**

## **Scripture:** Acts 8: 14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.  The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).  Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**Rite of Confirmation:**

Lighting of Candles

Introduction of Confirmands and Mentors

Mainey DePetris Jodi Backes

Liam Ledwith Dick Harter

Brooke Feldman Zanne Huhn

Isabel Matthews Stephanie Brown

Harrison Loyd Lisa Carlucci Thomas

Emma Meglin Janice Nolan

Luke Waehner Bo Huhn

Ella Hopfner Becca Mitchell

Brady Lynch Annie Freund

Sands Pascucilla Stephen Hegedus

Alyssa Grimm Donna Gregory

**Question to Confirmands:**

We celebrate your journey of faith that has brought you to this time and place. As you confirm your faith in Christ and join with First Congregational Church of Guilford, we ask you: *Will you participate in the life and mission of this community of God’s people, loving neighbor as self and taking part in the ministry of this congregation as it serves the community and the world? If so, please say,* ***“I will, surrounded in the light and love of my God and my church.”***

**Laying On of Paper Hands**

**Owning the Covenant:**

The promise that you have made today is an individual and personal one. Because Christians live out their faith in community, the individual promise is supported by all who walk with them in faith. First Congregational Church is joined together by a covenant, and today you are being asked to affirm your church membership for the first time. As you do this, the entire church community re-affirms it with you as a sign that this promise is renewed each time the church gathers to welcome new members to a common ministry. Let us all affirm these historic words:

**All:** *(unison)**Salem Covenant, 1629*

**We covenant with the Lord and one with another and doe bynde ourselves in the presence of God, to walke together in all God’s waise, according as God is pleased to reveal unto us in God's blessed word of truth.**

**Congregational Welcome:** *(in unison)*

**We greet you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We offer to you our friendship and prayers as we share in the hopes and ministries of our congregation and the church worldwide. May God grant that we continue to grow in knowledge, love and community.**

**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.)*

**Commission/Benediction**

**Postlude:**

**+ + +**

**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.

**Thanks to our musicians:**

**The flower photograph was taken by**

**Please submit prayer requests** to include in the worship bulletin by Wednesday each week to office@firstchurchguilford.org.  To respect privacy, we ask for first names and non-sensitive prayers only please. Please contact the clergy with sensitive non-worship-ready prayer requests.

**Offerings:** Our ministries continue, albeit in different ways. We know that some of us are not in a position to give or keep up with pledging at this time – know you are held in prayer. If you are able to continue to give, thank you.

**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 on Sunday, June 21st will be emailed at 10am.**

**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

 Annemarie Alexa, Bookkeeper/Data Manager, financeoffice@firstchurchguilford.org

 Mark Twombly, Sexton, mark@firstchurchguilford.org

 Carlo Pappolla, Sunday & Special Event Sexton

 The Rev. Dr. Sandra Wiens, Coord, Prison & Re-entry Min.,sandra@firstchurchguilford.org

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