

Order of Worship  
September 27, 2020  
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Park Ridge NJ

**Preludes**

**Welcome**

**Gathering Music**

Lord of the Dance

*All music is printed in the back of this bulletin.*

**Prayer (With one voice)**

We gather today as the church, O God,  
Bound together by the tender threads of Spirit,  
Made and remade into your Body  
For the sake of the world.

Arise among us this morning,  
In our hearts,  
In the spaces between us,  
And in the world in which we live.

May we meet you today,  
And in that meeting let us be  
Renewed, made wise, and strengthened for love.

Amen.

**Scripture**

Philippians 2:1-13 and Matthew 21:23-32

**Sermon**

**Song**

Rain Down

**Prayers and Joys of the People**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Prayer of Jesus (Debts)**

## **Closing Song**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

## **Benediction**

## **Postludes**

### ***Credits for Print and Live Streaming***

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# Music

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## Lord Of The Dance

Sydney Carter

VERSES



1. I danced in the morn - ing when the world was be - gun, and I  
2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but they  
3. I danced on the Sab - bath and I cured the lame, the  
4. I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black, it's  
5. They cut me down and I leap up high,



1. danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I  
2. would not dance and they would - n't fol - low me, I  
3. ho - ly peo - ple, they said it was a shame, they  
4. hard to dance with the dev - il on your back, they  
5. I am the life that 'll nev - er, nev - er die, I'll



1. came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth, at  
2. danced for the fish - er - men, for James and for John, they  
3. whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and they  
4. bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but  
5. live in you if you'll live in me,



1. Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
2. came with me and the dance went on.  
3. left me there on a cross to die.  
4. I am the dance and I still go on.  
5. I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

REFRAIN



Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be. I am the Lord of the



Dance, said he. I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may be, I will

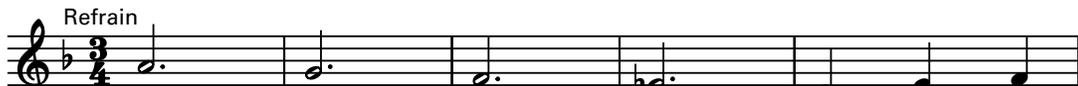


lead you all in the dance, said he. dance, said he.

# RAIN DOWN

Jaime Cortez

Refrain



Rain down, rain down, rain down your



love on your peo - ple. love, God of life.

Verses



1. Faith-ful and true is the word of our God. All of God's  
2. We who re - vere and find hope in our God live in the  
3. God of cre - a - tion, we long for your truth; you are the



1. works are so wor - thy of trust. God's mer - cy falls on the  
2. kind - ness and joy of God's wing. God will pro - tect us from  
3. wa - ter of life that we thirst. Grant that your love and your



1. just and the right; full of God's love is the earth.  
2. dark - ness and death; God will not leave us to starve.  
3. peace touch our hearts, all of our hope lies in you.

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## 561 In the Bulb There Is a Flower

C F Gm/F

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

C C7/F F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness bring - ing hope to you and me.  
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty;

F B $\flat$  F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
 in our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

Dm B $\flat$  F Dm Gm C F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

## Scripture Readings

### **Philippians 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

### **Matthew 21:23-32**

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

# Announcements

## **Sunday School**

Sunday school for our children will begin on Zoom starting October 4, and we are looking for **two adults to lead sessions in October**. If you are willing to take half an hour once a week to teach our children, please let me know! You are only responsible for four sessions, and I will meet with you to go over the curriculum and process.

## **Park Ridge Borough Garage Sale**

The Garage Sale is rapidly approaching October 3 and can use your help! We are looking for volunteers on the day of the sale to help out between 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Contact Carrie if you are interested in volunteering on October 3.

## **CROP Walk**

You can make a difference! Several members of First are participating in the virtual CROP Walk this year to raise money to combat hunger. You can sign up to join the “walk” or make a donation by dropping a check in the mail (with CROP in the subject line), making an online donation through our giving portal, or by utilizing the CROP website at:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/parkridgenj/Team/View/135427/Congregational-Cruisers>.

## **Indoor Worship**

The Reopening Team met last week (Suzanne Bigos, Julie Bliss, Deborah Collins, Barbara Inglese, Pastor Mark.) and agreed that we could begin to worship in the Sanctuary **beginning October 3**. To prepare for this we will be removing all but 50 chairs from the Sanctuary and arranging them so that people can comfortably sit six feet apart. The number of participants will be limited to 35, with five seats reserved for guests who may show up on a given Sunday morning. Masks must be worn in the building at all times and will be provided if someone should forget.

# United Church of Christ Mission Moment

September 27, 2020

## **God's Sustaining Presence**

Exodus 17:1-7

*American Indian Ministry Sunday*

*United Samoan Ministries Stewardship Sunday*

Holy God,

Thank You for Your sustaining presence above, below, before, behind and within us.

Sometimes we cry out in suffering.

We are thirsty, we are grieving, we are lost.

We struggle to find You.

Hear us when we cry, we pray.

Sustain us with like a cool spring of water  
appearing unexpectedly in a dry desert.

Other times we are in the flow of things.

We are moving, we are creative, we know right where we are.

We know right where You are too.

See us as we progress, we pray.

Sustain us like a burbling and flowing river  
moving with swift clarity on its own beautiful path.

And, then, there are those times when we are stopped in awe.

We are struck by Your power and majesty; we recognize how small we are.

We feel how grand You are.

Touch us with sand and salt, we pray.

Sustain us like a mighty ocean  
taking our breath and then giving back, over and over.

Water in the Desert,

Flowing River,

Mighty Ocean,

Three in One,

One in Three,

Sustain us, we pray.

Amen.