

1 How firm a foundation for you has been laid,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
 3 "When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
 4 "When through fiery trials your path-way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,

by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!  
 for I am your God, I will still give you aid;  
 the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;  
 my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand  
 For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed  
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."  
 de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."  
 your soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."  
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

Today's Worship Resources, Racial Justice Sunday 2023, were created by: Minister Neddy Yong, City of Refuge UCC (Oakland, CA) and Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley, Danville Congregational Church (Danville, CA) and Dr. Sharon Fennema, Join the Movement Curator.

February 12, 2023  
 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

## PRELUDE

## GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAYERFUL CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor: On this Sunday in the United Church of Christ, we honor and celebrate how God made us different so that we can grow in love, justice and understanding. As we begin worship together, I invite us to join together in saying thank you to God for making each of us unique, amazing, and wonderful. We are going to pray with movement and words. You can stay seated or stand for this prayer; whatever your body and spirit need. Let us pray by holding our hands in front of us, facing upward. Repeat after me: I give thanks for my skin color.

**Congregation: I give thanks for my skin color.**

Pastor: And I give thanks for my neighbor's skin color.

**Congregation: And I give thanks for my neighbor's skin color.**

Pastor: Now continue in prayer by touching our own hair. Repeat after me: I give thanks for my hair.

**Congregation: I give thanks for my hair.**

Pastor: And I give thanks for my neighbor's hair.

**Congregation: And I give thanks for my neighbor's hair.**

Pastor: Touch your mouth with your hands and repeat after me:

I give thanks for my native language

**Congregation: I give thanks for my native language.**

Pastor: And I give thanks for my neighbor's language.

**Congregation: And I give thanks for my neighbor's language.**

Pastor: Now continue in prayer by touching your belly. Repeat after me:

I give thanks for the foods of my ethnic heritage.

**Congregation: I give thanks for the foods of my ethnic heritage.**

Pastor: And I give thanks for my neighbors' food.

**Congregation: And I give thanks for my neighbors' food.**

Pastor: Place your hands on your heart and repeat after me:

I give thanks for the music that moves and speaks to me.

**Congregation: I give thanks for the music that moves and speaks to me.**

Pastor: And I give thanks for my neighbors' music.

**Congregation: And I give thanks for my neighbors' music.**

Pastor: Open your arms outward and give yourself a shake and repeat after me: I give thanks for my dance style.

**Congregation: I give thanks for my dance style.**

Pastor: And I give thanks for my neighbor's dance.

**Congregation:** **And I give thanks for my neighbors' dance.**  
 Pastor: Now bring your hands together in front of your chest in prayer. Repeat after me: I give thanks for my prayer and worship ways.

**Congregation:** **I give thanks for my prayer and worship ways.**  
 Pastor: And I give thanks for my neighbors' prayer and worship.

**Congregation:** **And I give thanks for my neighbors' prayer and worship.**  
 Pastor: In gratitude and praise, let the whole church say, AMEN!  
 All: **AMEN!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Pastor: Jesus tells us that the most important things we can do as his followers are to love God and to love each other. An important part of loving God and loving each other is admitting when we've done something hurtful, then apologize. So, we take time in our worship to name the ways we are not our best selves, not because we are bad, but because we want to be and do better. Let us tell God and each other what we are sorry for in prayer.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Pastor: Sometimes our words and actions cause others to hurt.  
**Congregation:** **God, it makes us sad when people hurt.**  
 Pastor: Sometimes we don't like to share what we have, which causes others to miss out.  
**Congregation:** **God, it makes us sad when people don't have enough.**  
 Pastor: Sometimes we think only about ourselves and don't let others take a turn.  
**Congregation:** **God, it makes us sad when people don't get a turn.**  
 Pastor: Sometimes we talk so much that others don't get the chance to speak.  
**Congregation:** **God, it makes us sad when people don't get to speak.**  
 Pastor: Sometimes we listen so little that others don't feel heard.  
**Congregation:** **God, it makes us sad when people don't feel heard.**  
 All: **Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Pastor: Believing always in the grace of our loving God, we seek assurance for the times when we are not our best selves. People of God, hear the good news: God loves you even when you are not your best self.

**Congregation:** **God loves me even when I am not my best self.**  
 Pastor: We all have times when our words have hurt, when we don't share or let others take a turn, when we don't make space for others to speak, or when we don't listen.

**Congregation:** **I trust in God's grace and know I can BE better and DO better.**  
 Pastor: God can help us be more kind, loving, and concerned about others.  
**Congregation:** **I am able to be more kind, more loving, and show more concern for**

## Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the  
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the  
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has

har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing  
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y  
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your

rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the  
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our  
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the  
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a  
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the

others.

Pastor: No matter what, be assured of God's love for you!

Congregation: **I know that God loves me!**

## LITANY OF COMMITMENT

Pastor: Having confessed when we have not been our best and trusting always in God's love and grace, we will do our best:

*All: to love ourselves, honor our bodies, and our hearts; to honor the bodies, and hearts of others –even if they are different from ours; to love others like God loves others; to be kind, to speak up, to listen, and to be God's love to the world. We will try our best to BE and DO better. Amen.*

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped*

(Tune: Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty)

Praise God, our Guardian, who lovingly offers correction,  
 Who, as on eagle's wings, saves us from sinful dejection.

Have you observed, how we are always preserved,  
 By God's parental affection?

Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!

Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!

Gladsome rejoice – organ, trumpet, and voice –  
 Joining God's great congregation!

## A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

## PASSING THE PEACE

## HYMN

*How Firm a Foundation*

Bulletin, Page 8

## OLD TESTAMENT READING – Joshua 1:1-9

## EPISTLE READING – 1 Corinthians 3:1-11

## GOSPEL READING – Matthew 22:34-40

## SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Baker

## PASTORAL PRAYER &amp; THE LORD'S PRAYER

*All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.*

## CONGREGATIONAL ANTHEM

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

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## OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: As we prepare to give our offering today, I invite us now to a time of

prayer where you will hear me say the words “mine,” “yours,” and “ours” spoken aloud and repeated. You are welcome to say the word aloud with me if that feels right to you. I invite you to pay close attention to your body, and notice what your body feels as you hear us say each word. Let us begin. I invite you to first find a comfortable position in your seat and find a comfortable gaze downward and notice what your body feels as you hear and say each word.

Mine, mine, mine, mine, mine...say the word slowly to yourself , 5 to 10 times, then pause to take a moment to notice what your body feels.

Now, let us pray our next word. Yours, yours, yours, yours...say the word slowly 5 - 10 times, then pause to take a moment to notice what your body feels.

Now, let us pray the final word. Ours, ours, ours, ours...say the word slowly 5 - 10 times, then pause and take a moment to notice what your body feels.

What would it feel like to live more generously with one another? What would it feel like to honor and love everyone? What would it feel like to take seriously God’s call to be good stewards of creation – all of creation – and to share the earth’s resources justly and equitably? With these feelings in our bodies, minds and spirits, let us give our offering with a song and prayer.

**HYMN** *We Give Thee but Thine Own* (Verse 1, only) **Hymnal, #258**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Liturgist: For what is mine, Holy One, we say:  
**Congregation: Thank you!**  
 Liturgist: Through our giving, show us how to hold what we have loosely and to be ready to offer it generously. For what is yours, Holy One, we say:  
**Congregation: Thank you!**  
 Liturgist: In our offering, teach us to acknowledge what has been stolen, extracted, taken by force, and to make reparations. For what is ours, Holy One, we say:  
**Congregation: Thank you!**  
 Liturgist: By our contributions, empower us to create new relationships of justice and equity and build a new kin-dom of flourishing for all, in God’s economy of love. Amen.

**HYMN**

*We are Marching in the Light of God*

CCM 부르는소리 African Melody

The musical score is written in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "We are mar - ching in the light of God - We are / We are liv - ing in the love of God - we are / We are mov - ing in the power of God - we are". The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, chords (G, D, G7, C), and a repeat sign at the end.

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: As you go from this place, hear God’s voice calling you: beloved. Turn to your neighbor and tell them they are beloved. Blessed by this belovedness, remember that wherever you go, whichever way you turn, whoever you encounter, there is the face of God.

*All: Amen.*

**POSTLUDE**