

October 15, 2023~ 11:00 a.m.

First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



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11 a.m.

Flowers given by: **Mary Kukainis**, in honor of **Bob Procter's** birthday and our grandchildren,
Nora, Levi and Ava

PRELUDE

Elegy

George Thalben-Ball

INVITATION to WORSHIP

One: God in the beginning we hear how You breathed life into all creation.

Many: **We celebrate the creativity of God who fashions and forms *all* in love.**

One: In Moses and Miriam, You parted the waters, provided manna, and paved a pathway to liberation.

Many: **In the prophets, You unveiled and revealed to us the ways we can return home to You.**

One: When the time was right and ripe, You came to us in the flesh of Jesus, embodying a love that will never let us go.

Many: **And we celebrate the mystery that Christ is here in this very room.**

*OPENING HYMN

God of Abraham and Sarah

#20

God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Moses, Miriam's Guide; God of David and the prophets, God in Jesus glorified: Up from the dust you raise a people, breathe in the breath of life, of soul; Down through the years the people praise you till alleluias make them whole!

God who dances in creation, spinning stars above our heads; God whose face is scribed in music, by whose hand the earth is fed: Up from the ground you raise the mountains, raise our spirits, lift our eyes; Down through the years your people praise you till alleluias flood the skies!

God who loves the poor in spirit, God who comforts those who mourn; Balm for wounds, the friend of sinners, taking the side of earth's forlorn: Up from the depths you raise your people, giving them courage for the day; Down through the years the people praise you till alleluias light their way!

In our lives from birth to dying, depth of sorrow, height of joy; Praising God in every season, let every key our hearts employ. Praise is the healing, praise, the glory, praise is the final mystery; Down through the years let people praise you till alleluias set them free!

*OPENING PRAYER

Stretch out Your love, O God, to embrace and enfold all that we carry with us. For some here today, there is heartbreak and soul ache. Like the widow, we bring the honest question, "Why?" Like Elijah, our hearts are overflowing with people and places. We pray for the violence in Israel and Palestine. We pray for those who are grieving. We pray for relationships where there has been a woundedness that doesn't seem to heal. We pray for ourselves, O God, in this rollercoaster of a world. Breathe on us, breath of God, fill us with life anew this day. We pray for our church community to be a safe space to

show us as we are and as we are becoming. Let our worship this morning get caught up in the holy mystery of praise and prayer and participating with You in the unfinished symphony of life. Alleluia and Amen.

HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

#506

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to our God in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to our God in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, burdened with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to our God in prayer! Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to our God in prayer! Jesus' arms will take and shield you; you will find solace there.

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 17:17-24

¹⁷ After this the son of the widow became ill; his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸ She then said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!" ¹⁹ But he said to her, "Give me your son." He took him from her bosom, carried him up into the upper chamber where he was lodging, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰ He cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?" ²¹ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, let this child's life come into him again." ²² The Lord listened to the voice of Elijah; the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³ Elijah took the child, brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother; then Elijah said, "See, your son is alive." ²⁴ So the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth."

SERMON

The Rollercoaster of Life

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERING/ANTHEM

O Love

Elaine Hagenberg

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*PRAYER of DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

Be Not Dismayed

#460

**Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you; Beneath God's wings of love
abide, God will take care of you.**

Refrain **God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way; God will take
care of you, God will take care of you.**

**Through days of toil when heart grows frail, God will take care of you; When dangers
fierce your path as sail, God will take care of you. *Refrain***

**All you may need God will provide, God will take care of you; Nothing you ask will be
denied, God will take care of you. *Refrain***

**No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you; Lean, weary one, upon God's
breast, God will take care of you. *Refrain***

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

David German

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ SUNDAY, October 15, 2023

**Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity House Meeting and World Bread Day
Celebration ~ TODAY ~ After the 11:00 worship service.** Please come to Fellowship Hour
and share breads, cheeses and other accompaniments from around the world in recognition of
the creation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), created in
1945 to fight hunger worldwide, with the motto "Fiat Panis" (Let there be bread). As we break
bread together, we will also engage in holy conversations with each other in our annual SURE
house meeting. Please plan to stay for this wonderful gathering.

UCC Men's Breakfast Series Resumes October 21. The UCC Men's breakfast series resumes
on Saturday, October 21! Past moderators Jim Butterworth and Dick Miller invite all
the men of the congregation, new and longtime members, to join them for breakfast in Syster
Hall then. Coffee will be on at 8 am and breakfast served at 8:30 am. We will enjoy fellowship
together and hear a short presentation by **Dick Miller about all of the exciting new initiatives
at the MOTE aquarium.** (A free will offering will be taken to cover breakfast costs.) You
may register by Thursday, October 19 by calling Sherry at the church office at 941-953-7044.

Next Sunday, October 22nd, following the 11 am worship service is our **Budget Meeting for
2024.** Please plan to stay in the sanctuary or tune in online.

Sacred Conversations on Race continues on **October 25**: “How to Deconstruct Racism One Headline at a Time” - TED Talk by Baratunde Thurston All are welcome! You can join either in person in the **Oasis Center or on Zoom**. Please see Jim Crumel for more information

The Facilities and Grounds team invites you to a workday trimming and weeding on **Saturday, October 28 starting at 8 am**. Please bring gloves, trimmers, and gardening tools. Many hands make light the work.

Sunday, October 29th is GATHERING of the WATERS SUNDAY at both services!!
Please plan to bring water from a place you traveled this past year or from your faucet right here as we celebrate the ways God brings the streams of our lives together.

BOOK STUDY ON CORE VALUES STARTS OCTOBER 30 ~ Our congregation is currently holding a yearlong conversation about its core values, mission and vision. As a part of this effort, Immediate Past Moderator Jim Butterworth will be facilitating a four-week discussion series this fall based on Christianity for the Rest of Us by Diana Butler-Bass which considers the shape of emerging Christianity and the renewal of mainline Protestant churches such as our UCC. Butler-Bass shares examples of inspiring work which congregations around the nation are doing in vital areas of church life such as hospitality, worship, justice, healing and diversity. **On four Monday afternoons from October 30 through November 20 at 4:00 pm in the Oasis Center and on Zoom**, participants will discuss a few of these “signposts of renewal” each week and consider how we are accomplishing God’s work in these key areas of our congregational life. Register with Sherry Glover in the church office at 941-953-7044 by October 23. New and used copies of the Butler-Bass book can easily be found online. Hope to see you there!

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS ~ The next gathering of the **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP** will be on Tuesday, Oct 31st from 2-3:30pm at Florence Jackson’s house. Contact Florence for address and directions (faj5110@gmail.com). Contact Lindsey Huddleston (630-338-9294) or Carol Hagglund (813-767-3782) for more information. Refreshments will be served.

Our Racial Justice Mission Group invites you to a Native American Blanket Exercise
Saturday, November 4th 12:00 Lunch* 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Free Workshop. After a free-will offering lunch, retired UCC pastor Rev. David Houseal and members of Windermere Union Church (Orlando) will offer an interactive history lesson on how Indigenous Nations lost their land over time through specific historic events. This program honors Indigenous Peoples' History and Culture; it inspires those who support Racial Justice and Environmental Justice efforts for our Native brothers and sisters. **Contact Florence Jackson by October 30th*
faj5110@gmail.com to reserve lunch

Project 180 is hosting a speaker and luncheon on October 19 at Michael's on East. Doors open 11:00 and program 11:30 to 1:00. *A Look Behind the Scenes: The Realities of Prisoner Reentry.* Laura I. Appleman, JD, discusses the myriad ways in which criminal justice costs—

fees, fines, court costs, probation payments, mandatory classes, and non-payment penalties— affect reentering citizens and how these costs can lead to years of indebtedness. Professor Appleman is a member of the faculty at the College of Law at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon where she is the Van Winkle Melton Professor of Law and a University Research Integrity Officer. **Go to Project 180 to purchase tickets, \$40 each and include lunch.**

Project 180 Backpack Supplies Wish List This is a resource given to each person released from prison and includes: Toothpaste and toothbrush; Comb; Flashlight with battery; Body wash (medium size); Shampoo (travel size); Deodorant (regular size); Hand towels (2); Wash rags (2); Rain poncho; Bike lock; Bike lights (for front and back of bicycle); Water bottle; Razors and shaving gel (medium size gel or cream); Mylar emergency ‘space blanket’; Sunscreen (medium size); Bug spray (medium size)

Please join the UCC Women for their monthly lunch and program on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023, at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. We will hear from Donna Rae Smith about the charity she founded, SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SUPPORT, INC., or “S.A.S.” Donna learned that children living in poverty are much more likely to stay home from school, especially girls who are menstruating but have no sanitary supplies, or it’s raining so boys and girls stay home because don’t have raincoats. Donna will explain how S.A.S. meets these basic needs. Luncheon costs \$12. Sign up after either Sunday service or call the church office at 941-953-7044. Questions? Call Lucy Hedrick, 203-561-9590, or lucy@lucyhedrick.com. **Please bring a box or two of ultra-thin sanitary pads—any size. No maxi-pads or tampons.**

CALENDAR

Sunday, October 15th

Sunday Worship, 9 am, **Sanctuary**
Sunday Worship, 11 am, in **Sanctuary** and online
SURE House meeting, noon, Syster Hall
Service for Eddie Brickner, 3:30 pm, Sanctuary

Monday, October 16th

Growing and Caring meeting, noon, Oasis Center and Zoom

Tuesday, October 17th

Drumming as a Spiritual Practice, 3 pm, Chapel
Peace and Justice, 3 pm, Oasis Center
Church Council, 6:30 pm, Oasis Center and Zoom

Wednesday, October 18th

Bible Study, 11 am, Oasis Center and Zoom
COLLAGE Advisory Team, 2 pm, Zoom
Church Choir, 7 pm, Chapel

Thursday, October 19th

Mission Team, 1 pm, Oasis Center and Zoom
Technology, 2 pm, Oasis Center

Saturday, October 21st

Men's Breakfast, 8 am, Syster Hall
PRIDE in Rosemary District, noon to 5 pm

Sunday, October 22nd

Sunday Worship, 9 am, **Sanctuary**
Sunday Worship, 11 am, in **Sanctuary** and online
Budget Meeting after worship, Sanctuary and online

*We encourage you to subscribe to the weekly **Midweek Message** via your email
to keep connected with activities in the church.*