



## *Dover Congregational United Church of Christ*

August 2, 2020

*Rev. Keith Stuart, Minister*  
*Martha Vivona, Lay Leader*



*Rev. Scott Patterson, Pastor Emeritus*

*Rev. John Rinehart, Minister of Justice*

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

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### ***Worship & Celebration of Life***

**Gathering Music**

“How Firm a Foundation”

David Cherwien

**Welcome**

#### ***Worship Theme...***

One: The prophet Isaiah writes in chapter 61

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion--to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord to display his glory.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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This passage makes me think of what has fallen into ruins in my life, and what God might be inviting me to rebuild. How about you? Is there a broken relationship, an abandoned justice project, a dream you have tucked away? How do you, our church, discern where God might be calling us to begin the work of restoration? Not all ruins are meant for redemption, after all; some are best to flee. How do we tell the difference? What helps us see the ruins clearly and to resist the hazards they may hold: the overabundance of nostalgia that keeps us from imagining what is yet possible, or the enchantments that deter us from moving on, or the pain that clouds our vision. Let us not be afraid. Our God builds up and restores. And God has invited us to come along, to pick up a hammer and get to work rebuilding and refashioning the world around us.

**Music of Reflection**

“The Summons ”  
Michael Simile/ Anthony Steward

*Scottish Traditional Hymn*  
*John Bell*

**“Liturgy of Awareness”**

One: For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Sovereign God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. The earth teaches us stillness as the grasses are stilled with light.

**Many: The earth teaches us suffering as old stones suffer with memory.**

One: The earth teaches us humility as blossoms are humble with beginning.

**Many: The earth teaches us caring as the mother who secures her young.**

One: The earth teaches us courage as the tree which stands all alone.

**Many: The earth teaches us limitation as the ant which crawls on the ground.**

One: The earth teaches me freedom as the eagle which soars in the sky.

**Many: The earth teaches us resignation as the leaves which die in the fall.**

One: The earth teaches me regeneration as the seed which rises in the spring.

**Many: The earth teaches me to forget myself as melted snow forgets its life.**

One: The earth teaches me to remember kindness.

*Based on Isaiah 61:11*

**Hymn**

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

*African American Spiritual*

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
Let us break bread together on our knees;  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;

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Let us praise God together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
My God, have mercy on me.

### **The Lord's Prayer as Liberation**

**One:** To be set free is the hallmark of God's hope for us. Hear again our beginning challenge. Good caring presence within us, around us, and above us; hold us in a sense of mystery and wonder.

**Many:** **Let the fullness of your goodness be within us and around us; let all the world know your ways of caring and generosity.**

**One:** May we find we have all we need to meet each day without undue anxiety.

**Many:** **Overlook our many stupidities, and help us to release everyone from their stupidities.**

**One:** May we all know that we are accepted. Strengthen us that we will reach out to the best, always with the faith to rise above the ugly realities of our existence.

**Many:** **And we celebrate the gifts you have given us -- the rich kingdom of life's possibilities, the power to do good and the triumphs of good, and the moments when we have seen the glory and wonder of everything.**

**One:** You are life's richness. You are life's power.

**Many:** **You are life's ultimate meaning -  
Amen**

*Francis Macnab*

#### **Special Music**

"As A Fire Is Meant For Burning"  
Michael Simile/Anthony Steward

*Marty Haugen*

#### **Sermon**

**"Liberation For the Living of These Days"**  
Rev. R. Keith Stuart

### ***To Pray...***

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

**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, for ever. Amen.

### ***To Remember...***

#### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**The Invitation**

**The Story**

**Sharing of the Elements**

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## Communion Music

### *To Leave...*

Hymn

“Be Now My Vision”

*Ancient Irish text  
Transl. Mary E. Byrne*

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;  
nothing surpasses the love you impart--  
You my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;  
ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me,  
now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I need not, nor life’s empty praise,  
you, my inheritance, now and always;  
You and you only are first in my heart,  
great God, my treasure, may we never part.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

### *Benediction*

**Minister:** Let us worship God and take on our lips words from a homecoming song:  
When the Holy Name brought us home from captivity, we thought we were dreaming.  
Our mouths were filled with laughter then, our tongues with songs of joy.

O’ God, Living God, free our captive hearts. Make them like streams in a desert.  
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.  
May those who go out weeping, bearing seed for sowing, come home with shouts of  
joy, carrying their sheaves.

**Many:** Thanks be to God!



**Sermon:** Rev. R. Keith Stuart  
**Organist:** Jan Jones  
**Media:** Dave MacKeigan

**Reader:** Joe Healey  
**Guitar** Michael Simile  
**Soloist:** Anthony Steward

## Live Stream events at Dover

~ The **worship service** will be live on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. on the Dover Congregational UCC Facebook page and on the Website on Monday morning.

~ **Replenish**, a short meditation for the week ahead, will be live on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. on Dover Congregational UCC Facebook page and on Dover's website.

~ **A word from our Minister of Justice**, will be live on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. On Dover Congregational UCC Facebook page.

Weekdays, the office will be open from 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. If you have a care or concern you need to discuss, please communicate by phone (440-871-1050) or email to either the office at (doverucc@doverucc.org) or to Rev. Stuart at (kstuart@doverucc.org).



~ Prayer Requests, please pray for God to be with these individuals, and for them to feel God's presence in the midst of their concerns:

Marie Black, Emily Borocz-Johnson, Susan Coldsnow, Jim DeMarco (brother-in-law of Bobbi Knoepp who died this week), Loreen Flesher, Gerrard (friend of Kevin Kurth), Robb & Jennifer Gaskins (friends of Bonnie & Parker Reynolds), Mary Gerdel, Sofia Greer (friend of Jeff & Amanda Hughes), Nanci Keller (Amy Keller's mother-in-law), Dorothy Lewers, Jason (David Wakelee's partner), Jeff Matos (friend of Jan Jones), Lois McCreight, Mike Moorman (Inge Moorman's son), Karen Pittak (Lindsey Kaschak Pittak's mother-in-law), Rod Reilly, Parker Reynolds, Susan Reynolds (sister of Denece Praeger), Ernie Rickard, Alice Rini, Donna Shiley, & Pat Daily (friends of the Koehlers), family of Ruth Schneider, Haley Schultz, Helen Sima (neighbor of Kevin Kurth), Dawn Stepic (friend of Georgann Yonkers), Stinchcomb family (friends of Judy MacKeigan), Keith & Cynthia Stuart, Robin Thomas, Pete Thompson, Linda Wiant (Kurt & Rita Wiant's sister-in-law), Penny Yagich, Debbie Zitello (Ruth Schneider's daughter), Denece and Chuch Praeger.

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*~Don't forget to join us on  
Zoom for the  
Virtual Coffee Hour!*

**Every Sunday, at 10:45 AM**



Join our Virtual Coffee Hour at:

(Type or copy and paste link into browser)  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83992463651?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83992463651?pwd=dTllclklT2FScWNTM2ZWQs95TkVxZz09)

[pwd=dTllclklT2FScWNTM2ZWQs95TkVxZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83992463651?pwd=dTllclklT2FScWNTM2ZWQs95TkVxZz09)

OR

Go to: Zoom.com, "Join meeting" and enter ID: 83992463651 and password: Dover2020