

A JOURNEY OF DISCIPLESHIP. ROOTED IN GOD'S LOVE. BUILT TO LAST.

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**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 21, 2026**

Rev. Dr. Barbara Dickason, BCC

United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

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Singing Prelude *This Little Light of Mine* Spiritual
Strings and Things — Mel Burrowes and George Calderone

Welcome and Announcements

Good morning, Venice United Church of Christ.

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus who welcomes each and every one of us into this sacred space. Father's Day... I am Pastor Barb, and John Yahres will be our liturgist, and Jeff Cook and Phillip Munsey are our song leaders. Many thanks to all of our staff and volunteers for all that they do so that we can come together to worship God.

Beautifying our sanctuary today, we have flowers given by Gayle and Wally Davis "in celebration of Barbara Talmage's 90th birthday."

For those of us who are worshipping online, whether today or some point in the future, I invite you to like us, share us, and let your presence be known in the comments so that we can keep each other in prayer.

For those of us here in this space of stained glass and compassionate friendship, if you have a prayer request or a joy to share, please make sure that you let the office know. Call us, drop us an email, or follow the prayer request button in the app,

as I want to make sure that we can lift up everyone's prayers as we worship.

For some of you, this is your first time joining us. I hope that you have been warmly greeted and have notated your presence either at our welcome table or through the QR codes found in the pews. We are excited to get to know you. We also have an exciting new gift for you, so please stop by the Welcome Table if you haven't already to pick it up. As a Wise Congregation for Mental Health, we invite everyone to wear a name tag, so that we can call each other by name.

For in this holy, wonderful, ordinary space,
as Venice United Church of Christ,
we empower and invite everyone
to join us in this divine place
that we share on line and in person.

For when we gather, everyone is invited,
no matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
and no one is turned away.

Following worship, everyone is invited to stay for coffee and fellowship across the lane in Naar Hall. Thank you to Sara Stafford and Deb Woudenberg, who are our hosts this week.

There are a few additional events of which to take note.

On Monday, SpiritFed. Our Wednesday Bible Study will be meeting. The Men are meeting Friday morning at Panera. Knit-Wits.

There are many ways to get involved here at Venice UCC, whether through activities, volunteering for special projects or helping with our mission projects, or serving on a team or committee. Please check out the information table to explore new ways to become connected to the ministries of our church.

This month, we have been working on building and faithfully growing upon God's strong foundation, guided by Brian McLaren's book: *Faith After Doubt*. Week by week, we have explored how faith matures not through certainty alone, but through trust, curiosity, and deeper participation in God's life. Today, Jesus invites us into one of the great paradoxes of discipleship: that when we cling too tightly to life, we lose it, but when we entrust ourselves to God's love and purposes, we discover life in all its fullness.

May our worship align us again with God's holy purpose — to love one another as Christ loves us.

So Come, beautifully authentic, humbly transforming, faithfully Good-news following body of Christ, and let us Worship God!

We Approach God's Presence

Bringing in the Light of Christ

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Folk Tune

Responsive Call to Worship

Sometimes faith feels simple and clear.

And sometimes it leads us into questions we did not expect.

Sometimes the path before us is familiar.

And sometimes it asks us to leave behind what once felt certain.

Yet through every season, God remains faithful.

The One who knows the sparrow knows us.

The One who calls us by name calls us into deeper life.

So we come to worship,

to listen,

to learn,

and to follow.

For in losing what cannot last,

we discover the life that truly is.

*Hymn

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me¹

Spiritual

**I'm gonna live so.....God can use me...
Anywhere, Lord.....anytime..... (Repeat)**

**I'm gonna work so.....God can use me...
Anywhere, Lord.....anytime..... (Repeat)**

**I'm gonna pray so.....God can use me...
Anywhere, Lord.....anytime. (Repeat)**

**I'm gonna sing so.....God can use me...
Anywhere, Lord.....anytime. (Repeat)**

¹ CCLI License #11176734 ... Song? SongSelect Copyright info? Please get this from Barb.

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Let us pray:

God of truth and tenderness,

You call us beyond easy answers and familiar certainties.

You invite us into a faith that is living, growing, and always becoming.

Yet we confess that we often cling to what feels safe.

We hold tightly to assumptions, old fears, and comfortable patterns,
even when they no longer bring life.

Sometimes we confuse certainty with faithfulness.

**Sometimes we protect ourselves from change
rather than trusting your Spirit to guide us.**

Transform our minds when fear shapes our choices.

Transform our hearts when lesser loyalties distract us
from the deeper call of your love.

Open our hearts and minds once more.

Teach us to listen with courage, to discern with wisdom,
and to follow wherever Christ leads.

Help us discover again

**that the path of discipleship is not the loss of life,
but the way into abundant life.**

Through Christ, our teacher and guide. Amen.

***Words of Grace**

Hear the Good News:

Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

The One who counts every sparrow and knows

every hair upon our heads holds us in mercy and grace.

In Christ we are transformed, renewed, and invited to begin again.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Response**

How Great Thou Art

Hine

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee,
how great thou art, how great thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee,
how great thou art, how great thou art.**

We Encounter God in the Word

Contemplative Reading *Faith After Doubt*²

Brian McLaren

Hear these words of contemplation:

“My first powerful spiritual or mystical experience came when I was around fifteen. I was on a retreat with a youth group from a friend’s church. A group of us arranged to sneak out of our dorms after we were supposed to be asleep and rendezvous on a hill nearby. We sat together under the stars just chatting for a while. Then I felt drawn to separate myself from my friends, so I walked a stone’s throw away and lay back in the grass to look up at the night sky, which was blessedly free of light pollution.

As I gazed at the glittering Milky Way, I began to feel myself strangely, unexpectedly gazed upon. I felt that from all directions, I was being seen by a loving presence. The joyful feeling of being inexplicably, irresistibly seen, known, and loved grew so strong, so utterly big within and upon me, that I began to laugh with joy and then to cry with tenderness. My stomach actually began to hurt because I was crying so intensely.

Then I remember feeling that the Love that loved me also loved the stars, the cattle nearby, the grass, the dew, the earth, the air, every single thing. I was not only a beloved individual; I was part of a beloved universe. And then I thought of my friends, and the love I felt for them seemed so huge and uncontainable that I felt I might burst. As wonderful as the feeling was, I begged God to stop it because I felt I couldn’t take it anymore. I dried my eyes on my shirtsleeve and went back to join my companions.

When I arrived, their conversation had turned to the fact that in a few years, we would all go our separate ways. One by one, my friends started saying how much they loved one another and sharing what they

² Brian McLaren. *Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What To Do About It*. (Broadway, New York: St. Martins Publishing Group, 2022) 99-100.

appreciated about one another. The beauty of that moment, of feeling surrounded by love, permeated by love, absorbed into love ... I seldom speak of it because doing so too easily cheapens the memory.

That whole experience lasted maybe twenty minutes. You might say that for those twenty minutes, I ... was transfigured or enveloped or abducted into Harmony. But it would be more than twenty years before I was able to enter into Harmony as a stage, a way of life, a habitual practice and normal experience. I'm thankful for the temporary state, even though it was so fleeting, because it marked me. It opened up a space in me, a capacity in me, that I didn't even know I had. It let me know that such a way of seeing and being was possible.

I only wish that someone had told me that this mystical experience of belovedness and connection was like a short vacation to a place that I could actually migrate toward and live in someday, if I were willing to go through the processes, struggles, experiences, practices, and intervening stages that would make Harmony go from impossible to fleeting to hard to habitual to normative.”

God is Still Speaking. Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Choplin

Jeff Cook, Phillip Munsey, and Congregation

Halle, halle, halle – lu – jah!

Halle, halle, halle – lu – jah!

Halle, halle, halle – lu – jah!

Hallelujah, halle – lu - jah!

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Refrain

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.
hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.
hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le -

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| | 1, 2 <i>(Second time to verse)</i> | Last time |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|

lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.
lu - jah, hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu - jah. jah.

WORDS: Caribbean; verses Hal H. Hopson (1933-); para. Psalm 150
MUSIC: Caribbean melody; original music and setting by Hal H. Hopson (1933-)
Words and Music © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

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24-25 “A student is not superior to the teacher; the follower is not above the leader. The student should be glad simply to become like the teacher, the follower like the leader. “If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of the household!

26-33 “Don’t let people intimidate you. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing is hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in darkness, speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops. “Don’t fear those who can deprive the body of life but can’t destroy the soul. Rather, fear the one who can destroy both body and soul in Gehenna. “Are not the sparrows sold for pennies? Yet not a single sparrow falls to the ground without your Abba God’s knowledge. As for you, every hair of your head has been counted. So don’t be afraid of anything—you are worth more than an entire flock of sparrows. “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will acknowledge before Abba God in heaven. Whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before Abba God in heaven.

34-36 “Don’t suppose that I came to bring peace on earth. I came not to bring peace, but a sword. I have come to turn

‘A son against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
in-law against in-law.
One’s enemies will be
the members of one’s own household.’

37-39 “Those who love mother or father, daughter or son more than me are not worthy of me. Those who will not carry with them the instrument of their own death—following in my

footsteps—are not worthy of me. “You who have found your life will lose it, and you who lose your life for my sake will find it.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Let us pray:

For the wisdom revealed through story,
for the courage to listen deeply,
and for the Spirit who opens our eyes to the Word of God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Amen.

Several years ago, a woman found herself facing a decision she had spent years trying to avoid.

Nothing dramatic had happened. There had been no great argument, no scandal, no single moment that forced a choice. From the outside, everything looked reasonably peaceful. Family gatherings happened on schedule. Phone calls were exchanged. Holidays were observed.

But over time she had become increasingly aware that maintaining peace and living honestly were not always the same thing. For years she had smoothed over comments that wounded others. She changed subjects when conversations drifted toward prejudice. She avoided difficult discussions because she knew where they would lead. She convinced herself that silence was kindness, that keeping everyone comfortable was love.

Then one afternoon, during what should have been an ordinary family gathering, a remark was made about a group of people already carrying more than enough burdens in the world.

She knew the familiar options. Say nothing. Redirect the conversation. Wait for the moment to pass.

Instead, she took a breath and spoke. She was not angry. She did not raise her voice. She simply explained why she saw things differently. That they were people with real lives. That she did not view them as problems or mental exercises to be solved. The conversation did not go well. Some became defensive. Others withdrew. Feelings were hurt. The gathering ended awkwardly.

She later reflected, “I thought doing the loving thing was supposed to make things better.” Then she paused. “But I also think it was the first honest conversation we’ve had in years.”

I have thought about that conversation often, because most of us have been taught to think that peace and faithfulness always travel together. But sometimes what we call peace is simply the absence of conflict, an arrangement that allows everyone to remain comfortable. And sometimes the moment we begin living more honestly, loving more courageously, or following Christ more faithfully, the passive peace we have carefully preserved begins to crack.

Which raises a difficult question. If following Jesus sometimes disrupts the very things we have worked hardest to maintain, how do we know whether we are losing something precious—or finally discovering where life is found?

Finding Life

That question sits at the heart of today’s Gospel, and underneath our month-long conversation with Brian McLaren’s *Faith After Doubt*. Much of what McLaren describes is not the loss of faith, but the gradual letting go of an earlier system of beliefs in order to practice a deeper faithfulness. What once seemed solid begins to

feel too small for the complexities of life, suffering, wonder, and grace. Following Jesus becomes less about possessing certainty and more about learning how to trust in the midst of life's ambiguities.³

In our scripture this morning, Jesus is preparing his followers for life beyond the safety of their immediate circle. They have been walking with him, watching him heal, teach, challenge, restore, and welcome. But now they are being sent. Sitting at the teacher's feet gives way to embodying what they have learned.

Jesus does not romanticize what lies ahead. "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master." If Jesus has been misunderstood, they will be misunderstood. If Jesus has faced resistance, they will face resistance. Just as some are rejecting Jesus' teaching, so the disciples will face similar rejection. Jesus is preparing them for the discovery that the life transformation that follows faithful practice of his teachings rarely leaves the existing arrangements untouched.

Learning What Family Means

The disciples, like everyone else around them, had learned from childhood where life was supposed to be found. Life was to be found in family, tribe, inherited identity, and established loyalties. Life was found in knowing exactly where you belonged.

Yet Jesus kept opening doors that challenged those familiar boundaries, and is still difficult for us to hear. Which is precisely why we must linger here.

³ McLaren, *Faith After Doubt*, 99–100

Jesus speaks of sons and fathers, daughters and mothers, and entire households divided by competing loyalties. It sounds harsh, and very unlike the Jesus who teaches us to love one another.

And lest we, too, misunderstand, religious scholars warn us to be careful in our interpretation and application of this passage. Jesus is not inviting us to accept and applaud family dysfunction or religiously justified division. Jesus is not blessing division. Instead, Jesus preparing faithful people for those moments when following God's call creates tension with so many cultural and family expectations that have long gone unquestioned.⁴

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus repeatedly affirms care, compassion, and responsibility. Yet he also refuses to treat biological relationships as the ultimate measure of belonging. Earlier in Matthew, when Jesus is told that his mother and brothers are looking for him, he points toward his disciples and says, "Here are my mother and my brothers." He is saying, "Whoever does the will of God belongs within this family."

Jesus knew how startling this would sound. Yet Jesus is creating something bigger — He is expanding the family of God. The kingdom of God forms a community that transcends bloodlines, social categories, ethnicity, status, and household boundaries. Jesus is creating a family larger than clan, tribe, nation, and defined not by shared DNA but by shared participation in God's life.

People who had every reason to remain strangers found themselves calling one another brother and sister.

⁴ Goettler, "Pastoral Perspective," Feasting on the Word, Year A, Vol. 3

Imagine a wealthy merchant sitting at table with someone who labored all day for barely enough to live. Imagine a widow discovering that her future no longer depended only upon biological relatives because a community had assumed responsibility for her care. Imagine a Gentile and a Jew sharing bread after generations of being taught that they should remain separate.

None of this happened because people suddenly agreed with one another. It happened because they became convinced that something more fundamental than bloodline now defined who they are. Jesus was describing to his followers how God's love keeps extending beyond the exclusionary boundaries we keep trying to draw. Jesus was explaining how letting go of our perception of what life is and should be can liberate us, perhaps even providing us a glimpse of the gift of our life from God's perspective.

Learning to Belong Differently

As a teenager, Brian McLaren found himself lying beneath a sky filled with stars. Looking upwards, he became aware of a loving presence surrounding him. Yet what moved him most deeply was the realization that everything was: the stars, the grass, the animals nearby, his friends, the earth itself. For a brief moment he experienced himself not as an isolated individual but as a part of a reality held together by love.

Years later, he understood that experience not as destination but as an invitation. An invitation to spend a lifetime learning to see the world differently. That moment opened in him a capacity to

live toward a wider harmony, one that had to be practiced over time.⁵

In our passage this morning, Jesus describes how even such a beautiful moment can cut like a sword. For once we have glimpsed God's care for us, which is even greater than God's care for the sparrows and the grasses in the field, once we have been truly welcomed into God's family, which slices through family, tribal, and national loyalties, once we have accepted our role in faithfully hearing the word of God and doing it, nothing will ever be the same again.

So as he is preparing his disciples to go out, Jesus offered both these words of caution and of promise: Jesus reminded them that they belong. Before they are challenged, they are known. Before they are asked to risk anything, they are already held within the life of God.

Fear has a way of shrinking our world. Perhaps that is why Jesus repeats the same instruction again and again: do not be afraid. Not because there is nothing to fear, but because fear is not where life is found.

The Life That Is Found

Which brings us to Jesus' final words in this passage: "Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

⁵ (McLaren, Faith After Doubt, 99–100)

Notice that Jesus does not explain those words. He leaves them hanging there, almost as if they can only be understood by living them.

Biblical Scholar Emilie Townes reminds us that a disciple is first and foremost a learner. Before the disciples become apostles or leaders, they are students of Jesus. They are learning to see the world through the lens of God's kingdom rather than through the assumptions they inherited.⁶

That learning is not always comfortable.

After all, Jesus continually invites them beyond their familiar boundaries. He sends them to people they would not normally seek out. He teaches them to recognize neighbors where they once saw outsiders. He forms them into a community whose identity is rooted not in bloodline but in God's call. Jesus is not merely giving them new information. He is teaching them a new way of living, a new way of being.

Again and again, faithfully following Christ asks us to release something we once thought was essential in order to learn something new. Sometimes that learning expands our understanding of God. Sometimes it expands our understanding of our neighbors. And sometimes it requires us to release our need for certainty in order to more faithfully practice following the living God who leads us. For this is where life is truly found.

Finding Life!

The woman from that family gathering never told me that the conversation became easier. Some relationships remained

6

strained for quite some time. Yet something had changed. She no longer measured faithfulness by the absence of conflict. She no longer confused peace with silence.

Most importantly, she discovered that her belonging did not depend upon keeping everyone comfortable.

Looking back, she told me that what surprised her most was not the conflict itself. It was the freedom. The energy she had spent preserving appearances could finally be devoted to actually loving people.

Perhaps that is what Jesus means by finding life. Those who cling to life as they have always known it may never discover how much more life can become.

But those willing to trust God's invitation — even when it unsettles familiar arrangements — sometimes discover that what felt like loss was actually the beginning of something new.

A deeper faithfulness. A wider compassion. A larger family.

And in the process, we discover the life God has given us all along. The life we are still learning to find. Amen.

We Respond to God's Grace

Congregational Prayers

Joys

...

What a wonderful world with God in it.
Beautiful weather,
Getting up each morning,
Thankful that the Lord listens to prayers whatever they might be,
Music,
Kindness,
Our volunteers who do so much,
Those who light up our lives,
love,
playing golf,
the awe of each new day.
friends and neighbors who are like family,
being able to come to church,
being able to express ourselves to God,
diversity of the congregation,
God's new morning painting,
that we are able to celebrate our joys — for celebrating joy
reminds us that we share the same source of our joy,
the depth of human creativity and spirit,
gathering together to study God's word,
rebirth and recreation in communities that empower and hold us
as we ask tough questions of God and each other,
those who pitch in and help out,
birthdays, anniversaries, milestones...

When we pray for our loved ones, we have a duty of care to not spread their business without explicit permission.

Instead, as we pray, we hold our loved ones close to our heart and lift them up to God, trusting that the Spirit intercedes in all of our prayers, especially those too deep for words.

Intercessions:

(Needs edits)

For the family and friends of Dr. Sam

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Rob, Maria, Elvi, Maria | Pat | Sam |
| Ruth | Vicki | Rani |
| Jimmy | Christine | Cerenity |
| Mark | Helen | Pam |
| Rev. Ryan's family | Jack | Rick |
| Kip | Ami | Lowell |
| Clark | Barbara | |

Those who are struggling with a cancer diagnosis.

We pray for those people who have lost their jobs and their means of supporting their families, ... pets that need homes

We pray for everyone to be healthy,

Everyone impacted by the decisions of governments that choose violence and war instead of diplomacy; all essential workers and all frontline healthcare workers; everyone impacted by recent hurricanes, fires, tornadoes, and flooding; and

The staff and participants of Word Made Flesh in Sierra Leone, Immokalee Farm Workers, black and brown fathers and their sons, everyone living through domestic violence, people of all religions who are being persecuted because of their faith, all who struggle with or are affected by mental illness and depression. We also pray for law enforcement officers, service

men and women, missionaries and rescue workers doing God's work in dangerous places.

(Third Sunday: trespasses)

Silent Prayer

Prayers of the People and our Lord's Prayer

Loving God,

You know what it is to call people into journeys they do not fully understand. You invite us to follow, to learn, and to trust even when the path ahead feels uncertain. When fear tempts us to cling to what is familiar, remind us that your love is larger than our doubts and your wisdom deeper than our understanding.

Help us grow into the kind of faith that Jesus taught—a faith that listens carefully, discerns thoughtfully, and responds courageously. Teach us to hold our convictions with humility, our questions with honesty, and our neighbors with compassion. May we learn what it means to lose those things that diminish life so that we may discover the deeper life you long to share with all creation.

We pray this morning for those who are grieving, for those who are suffering, for those who are sitting in that place of waiting and not knowing. Soothe our fears, nourish our bodies, and feed our souls with the bread and cup of your compassion and mercy.

We praise you for your vision of a new heaven and a new earth, in which everyone treats each other as your beloved children, as together we sing the prayer that you have taught us:

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 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,
and the power,
and the glory.
Forever. Amen.

Musical Response *God Will Take Care of You* Martin

**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.**

We Share God's Love

Mission Moment

Strengthen the Church offering...Five for Five, Jane Chittick on behalf of the Mission Committee.

Invitation to Generosity

Jesus reminds us that not even a sparrow falls outside God's loving care. When we give, we participate in that same care, helping to nurture lives, strengthen communities, and proclaim God's love in tangible ways. Our gifts become signs of hope and reminders that abundant life grows wherever generosity takes root. Let us offer our gifts with grateful hearts, trusting that God continues to bring life into the world through us.

(The offering plates are found by each doorway for your use. For those of us online, please follow the QR code.)

***Song of Gratitude**

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.**

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

God of abundant life,

Receive these gifts and the lives from which they come. Use them to strengthen those who are weary, encourage those who are fearful, and support the work of justice, compassion, and hope. Teach us to live generously, to follow faithfully, and to trust deeply in your care. Through Christ, who leads us into life. Amen.

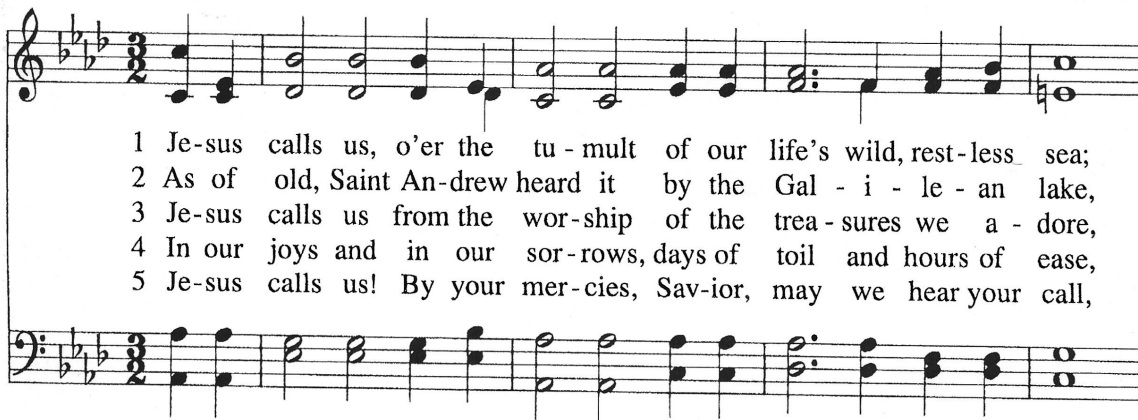
We Go to Carry the Light

*Hymn

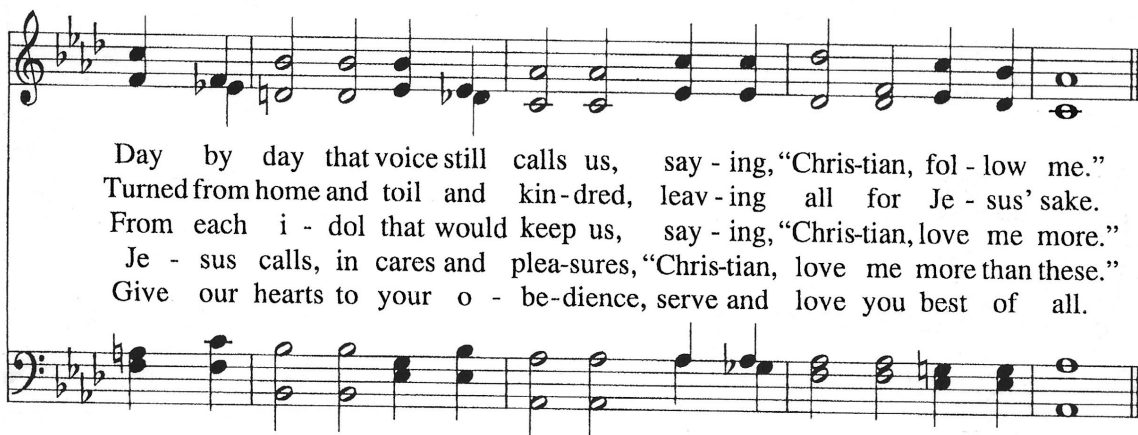
Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

1. Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day that voice still calls us,
saying, "Christian, follow me."
3. Jesus calls us from the worship
of the treasures we adore;
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."
4. In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian,
love me more than these."
5. Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Savior, may we hear your call;
Give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

Cecil F. Alexander, 1852; alt.



1 Je-sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest-less sea;
2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,
3 Je-sus calls us from the wor-ship of the trea - sures we a - dore,
4 In our joys and in our sor-rows, days of toil and hours of ease,
5 Je-sus calls us! By your mer-cies, Sav-ior, may we hear your call,



Day by day that voice still calls us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, fol - low me."
Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
From each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."
Je - sus calls, in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."
Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.

Cecil Alexander, who in Ireland wrote sacred verse to teach children the meaning of the catechism and liturgy, designated this poem for St. Andrew's Day. Many years later Galilee was composed for this text by an English organist William Jude.

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Tune: GALILEE 8.7.8.7.
William H. Jude, 1887
Alternate setting: ST. ANDREW

***Blessing and Benediction**

Go now in the confidence that you are deeply known and deeply loved.
When questions arise, may you meet them with courage.
When fear appears, may you remember God's faithful presence.
When the path of discipleship asks something of you,
 may you trust that Christ walks beside you.
And as you go, may you Find Life!
Go in peace. Amen.

***Sending Blessing** *Go Ye, Go Ye into the World* ...

**Go ye, go ye, into the world,
and tell the story to all believers.
Go ye, go ye, into the world,
and I will be with you there!**

***Postlude** *Faith of Our Fathers* Henry

**Please remain seated in silence for the Postlude as the
Light of Christ is carried into the world.
The worship has ended; our service begins.**

Supporting Our Service Today

Liturgist: John Yahres

Welcome Table: Sandy Barrie

Greeter: Wendy Seeley

Acolyte: Bella Clapham

Head Usher: Gary Leidheiser

Usher Team: Terry Calderone,
George Calderone, Sharon
Leidheiser, Wendy Seeley

Technology Team

Gary Woodrum, Debra Mosely,
Maria Groody, David Jack,
Linda Newton, Wally Davis,
Patty Fjetland

The **Lord's Table** was decorated
by Victoria Augustine

The **Sanctuary Flowers** are
given by Gayle and Wally Davis

“In celebration of Barbara
Talmage’s 90th birthday.”

The **Church Sign** was changed
by Faye Newton & Lisa Sclafani

Sunday Librarian:

Ellen Schleicher



Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Barbara Dickason, BCC

Staff

Gary Leidheiser: *Custodian*

Marguerite Long:

Administrative Specialist

Natashia Laughnan:

Social Media and

Communications Specialist

Barbara Quinn: *Music Director*

Lynda Weston: *Bella Handbell
Director*

This Week at a Glance

Monday, June 22

SpiritFed at noon

Pack a lunch and join us **on ZOOM** for prayer, study and connecting with each other. It's a come-as-you-are space designed to help us confront the loneliness epidemic while growing closer to God.

Click on the link below to join.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83576594637?
pwd=U2024sKmOPiy3CyMqV4
OarYUtofaom.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83576594637?pwd=U2024sKmOPiy3CyMqV4OarYUtofaom.1)

Meeting ID: 835 7659 4637
Passcode: 913882

Tuesday, June 23

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
10:00 AM Finance Team— P
2:30 PM VADC—CR

Wednesday, June 24

9:00 AM - Noon Library Hours
10:00 AM Bible Study—CR

Friday, June 26

8:30 AM Men's Coffee—Panera
9:00 AM Knit Wits — P

Saturday, June 27

8:30 AM Men's Breakfast —
NH

Sunday, June 28

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00-9:45 AM Library Hour

10:00 AM Worship

Special Guest Musician:

Michael Hepner, "Detroit Mike"

11:00-11:15 AM Library Time

Coming Events

The church office is open

M-Th, 9-1.

Would you like to donate to VUCC online?

Use this link:

<https://veniceucc.org/give>

Or...Use your Smart Phone

to scan the QR code:

and it will take you

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donations page.

It is really easy!

