

# Keene Valley Congregational Church United Church of Christ

January 23, 2023



Follow Me



## Keene Valley Congregational Church A Welcoming Spiritual Community

Greetings! We are glad you joined us for worship today.

*The mission of the Keene Valley Congregational Church, UCC is to welcome people wherever they are on life's journey, joining together in worship and spiritual exploration while striving lovingly to serve others with justice and compassion.*

On October 7, 2018 the congregation voted overwhelmingly to become Open and Affirming by embracing the following statement of covenant:

*The mission of the Keene Valley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is to welcome all people wherever they are on life's journey, joining together in worship and spiritual exploration while striving lovingly to serve with justice and compassion. In order to live more deeply into these values, while understanding that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning and intersex people are often scorned and discriminated against both in the church and in society, we declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming Church. We covenant to welcome all individuals into the wholeness of the life of the church and to work to end oppression and discrimination wherever we encounter them and to help create the beloved community of God's realm.*

On October 10, 2021 the congregation voted unanimously to accept the following statement of covenant to become a Creation Justice Church:

*Keene Valley Congregational Church affirms that the global environmental crisis is the most pressing spiritual challenge of human history. This moment calls us to understand our mission statement's charge to, "strive lovingly to serve others with justice and compassion," to broadly include both the human and non-human Creation. As such, we declare our congregation to be a Creation Justice Church. We commit ourselves to thoughtfully engage in acts of compassion to heal the world, mitigate the effects of the environmental crisis, and advocate for justice on behalf of all Creation.*

We are thankful for the ways God invites us to journey together!



## WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

### **Meditation**

### **Welcome**

### **Welcoming Music**

Joy to the World

Watts

### **\*Hymn**

I Am the Light of the World

#584

### **Opening Reading**

excerpt from "Forged in the Fire of Our Coming Together"  
by Gretchen Haley

For this hour we gather  
To surrender to the mystery  
To release ourselves from the needing to know  
The yearning to have it all already figured out  
And also the burden of believing we either have all the control, or none

Here in our song and our silence  
Our stories and our sharing  
We make space for a new breath, a new healing, a new possibility  
To take root  
That is courage  
forged in the fire of our coming together  
and felt in the spirit that comes alive in this act of faith:  
that we believe still, a new world is possible  
That we are creating it, already, here, and now

Come, let us worship together.

### **Passing of the Peace**

## WE SHARE SACRED CONVERSATION

### **Youth Message**

The Rev. John Sampson

## **Anthem**

## **Prayer**

### **Period of Silent Meditation**

### **Prayers 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 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Offering**

### **Offertory**

#### **\*Doxology**

**To God, all honor and delight,  
To Christ revealed in earthly night  
To God the Spirit now we raise  
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.**

#### **\*Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**All: God, we pray that you receive these offerings and transform them into extraordinary blessings. Where your children cry, may they be used to bring joy. Where your children have forgotten to care, may they be used to open hearts. Where your children look within, may they be used to invite all of us to look without. Amen.**

## **Scripture**

1 Corinthians 1:10 – 18

## **Reflection**

Follow Me

The Rev. John Sampson

**Just a Moment Musical Selection**

Martha Gallagher

**\*Hymn**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#160

**WE RETURN TO THE WORLD**

**Charge**

based on Micah 6:8

**One:** As we leave our sanctuary today, and meet again the joys and Challenges of our lives and of all Creation, let us remember what God requires of us throughout the upcoming week:

**All: To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Badinerie

J.S. Bach

## I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981

In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

*Unison Introduction*

*Refrain*

F B $\flat$  C F

"I am the light of the world!"

B $\flat$  C F Gm Dm C

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you fol-low and love you'll

F Gm7 C B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  F

*Last time, end*

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

F B $\flat$ /D C F

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the  
 2 7 To find the lost and lone-ly one, 7 to  
 3 7 To free the pris-oner from all chains, 7 to  
 4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do, 7 to

Gm Dm C

star in the sky is gone, When the  
 heal the bro - ken soul with love, 7 To  
 make the pow - er - ful care, To re -  
 dance at a ba - by's new birth, 7 To

F Bb C F

sag - es and the shep - herds have found their way home, the  
 feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food, To  
 build the na - tions with strength of good will, to  
 make mu - sic in . . . . an old per - son's heart, and

Dm Bb Gm7 C *Return to*

work of Christ-mas is be - gun:  
 feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!  
 see all God's chil - dren ev - ery - where!  
 sing to the col - ors of the earth!

# Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12; 9:5

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing, Je - sus, the light of the world;  
 2 Joy - ful, all you saints a - rise, Je - sus, the light of the world;  
 3 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored, Je - sus, the light of the world;  
 4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je - sus, the light of the world;

Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring, Je - sus, the light of the world.  
 Join the tri - umph of the skies, Je - sus, the light of the world.  
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Word, Je - sus, the light of the world.  
 Hail the Sun of righ - teous-ness! Je - sus, the light of the world.

*Refrain*

We will fol - low the light, beau - ti - ful light, come where the

dew-drops of mer - cy are bright, Shine all a - round us by

day and by night, Je - sus, the light of the world.



**This Week @ KVCC:**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7:00 AM 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Worship – In-person and via Zoom</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>All Day 7:00 AM</b>	<b>Pastor’s Day Off Centering Prayer – Via Zoom</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7:00 AM 8:00 AM-Noon 1:00-3:00 PM 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Liz in Office Pastor John in Office Council</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7:00 AM 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Choir</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7:00 AM 8:00-Noon 10:30 AM 1:00-3:00 PM</b>	<b>Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Liz in Office Neighborhood House - In person Pastor John in Office</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>7:00 AM 9:00 AM 6:00 PM</b>	<b>Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Prayer Group Dinner for John Sampson</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>All Day 7:00 AM 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Pastor’s Day Off Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Faith &amp; Issues</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7:00 AM 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Centering Prayer – Via Zoom Worship – In person and via Zoom</b>

**Today's Worship Leadership:**

**Minister – The Rev. John Sampson  
Worship Assistant – Katharine Preston  
Ushers – Elizabeth Davidson Derr & Susan Lacy  
Coffee Hour – Nancy & Laurin McArthur  
Flowers – Charlotte Lichtenberg  
Zoom Administrator – Dave Craig  
Choir Director – Rob Hastings  
Accompanist – Lynn DeWalt**

**Contact the Church:**

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