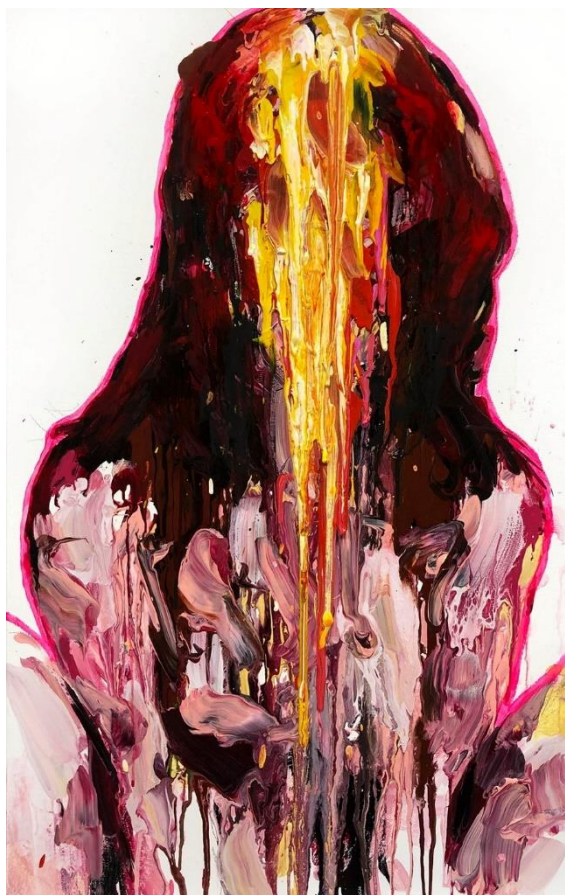


Keene Valley Congregational Church United Church of Christ

March 19, 2023



She Loved Much



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 Be Thou My Vision – Agnus Dei Schubert

Welcome

Welcoming Music “O Thou Who Hearest Every Heartfelt Prayer” Atkinson

***Hymn** “What Wonderous Love Is This” - Vs. 1-2 #223

Prayer of Confession adapted from Beth Merrill Neel

One: Holy God, hear our prayer.

There is pain and there is sorrow,
there are broken relationships and broken hearts.
Sometimes we are the cause of those things.
We have caused pain.
We have broken the relationship.
Sometimes we are simply a part of them –
we are the ones who suffer,
we are the ones who are broken.

**All: So we ask for your forgiveness,
and we ask for the forgiveness of those we may have hurt.
We ask for your healing.
We ask that you would help us turn from our former selves
to the persons you have created us to be,
full of mercy and grace and love. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Greeting Each Other in Peace

Anthem “And No Bird Sang” Wagner

WE SHARE SACRED CONVERSATION

Youth Message

The Rev. John Sampson

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

From the "Water to Wilderness"

African Amer. Spiritual

*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

Luke 7:36-50

Reflection

She Loved Much

The Rev. John Sampson

Just a Moment Musical Selection

Martha Gallagher

***Hymn**

“How Could Anyone” (sing 3 times)

Insert

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

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

arr. Jan Sanborn

324 How Could Anyone

Words: Libby Roderick, © 1988 Libby Roderick Music

Music: Libby Roderick, arr. by Eileen Hickman, © 1988 Libby Roderick Music

How could an - y - one ev - er tell you, You are

Chords: Gm, C7

an-y-thing less than beau-ti-ful? How could an-y-one ev-er tell you You are

Chords: A7, Dm, Em7b5, A7

less than whole? How could an - y - one fail to no - tice That your

Chords: Dm, C7, D7, Gm, C7

lov-ing is a mir-a-cle? How deep-ly you're con-nect-ed to my soul?

Chords: A7, Dm, Gm, F, C7, F

Today's Worship Leadership:

Minister – The Rev. John Sampson

Worship Assistant – Liz Jaques

Ushers – Nancy & Laurin McArthur

Coffee Hour – Liz Jaques

Zoom Administrator – Dave Craig

Music Director – Rob Hastings

Accompanist – Lynn DeWalt

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