

First Congregational Church of Winona

United Church of Christ

Stewardship Sunday

10:00 a.m.

October 24, 2021

Prelude

Sandy Todd

Invitation to Worship

Rev. Danielle Bartz

Chimes

Call Litany (*based on Psalm 137, a Psalm of exile*)

One: By the waters of Babylon, there we wept when we remembered.

Many: By the waters of the kitchen sink, there we wept. And on the living room couch, and in the empty school room, and beside the makeshift dining room table office.

One: How could we sing God's song in a strange land?

Many: How could we sing God's song over Facebook or Zoom?

One: By the waters of Babylon,

Many: There we wept when we remembered.

One: We remembered that ancient rhythm of separation and homecoming,

Many: Exile and return, going out and coming in.

One: You who are by the waters of Babylon: Come!

Many: From kitchens and home offices, sidewalks and parking lots, we come!

One: You who remember and you who do not: Come!

**Many: Sometimes remembering clearly, sometimes confused by nostalgia, we come!
By car and by computer, we come!**

One: God goes with every exile;

Many: God rejoices with every return.

One: In Babylon and Jerusalem, in strange lands and familiar rooms

Many: In sanctuaries and on screens, in pews or chairs, couches or recliners,

ALL: LET US WORSHIP GOD.

Call for Offering

The people gather and disperse, gather and disperse. It is the way of life with God. As with the people, so with our money: gather and disperse, gather and disperse. As with the people, so with our money: the more we gather, the more we can disperse. As with the people, so with our money: the gathering is good, but the giving, the sending out into the world, is even better! It's the heart of the heart of everything! Friends, the offering will be gathered and sent, all for the sake of "a future with hope."

Anthem & 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

God of love and generosity, for the gifts you have dispersed into the world, we give you thanks: the people, the money, the hope, and the life. For all that has been gathered here from that dispersal, the people, the money, the hope, and the life, we give you thanks. Give us the strength to be separated, the courage to be commissioned, the generosity to give, and the wisdom to send ourselves and our money where you would have them go. Send your Spirit on us and in us, wherever we are, O God, and on this gathering of your gifts, for we have gathered ourselves and our offerings in the name of our Good Shepherd, the One who lives in exile with us, the One who leads us home: In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 29:10-14

Sermon

"A Future with Hope"

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Benediction and Blessings

Chimes

Postlude