



June 28, 2020

9:30 Worship

"ONA Sunday"

*\* indicates those who are comfortably able may stand*

*"...how long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?*

*How long will you hide your face from me?*

*How long must I bear pain in my soul?*

*-Psalm 13:1-2*

Gathering Music

Amy Crousore

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Prelude from Suite #5"

Amy Crousore  
Henry Purcell

Carrying in the Light of Christ

\*Call to Worship *(adapted from Psalm 13)*

Lindsey Oberle

How long, O God? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?

**The voices of those who have been oppressed cry out;  
Diverse communities, crying out for inclusion.**

How long must I bear pain in my soul?  
How long must I have sorrow in my heart?  
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

**The pain of exclusion, the agony of dismissal;  
Only when we unite as one is this pain diminished.**

Consider and answer me, O God!  
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death.

**We gather for worship this morning, lifting up the lost.  
We gather for worship, blessing those who have been diminished.  
We gather for worship praising God by loving God's children.  
Come, let us worship God!**

\*Opening Hymn "They'll Know We are Christians"

*(insert)*

\*Opening Prayer\*\*

Lindsey Oberle

**God of diversity and Creation; we are a pilgrim people, on a journey of faith. We know that we are accompanied by you, who journeys beside us, accepting us for who we are yet also going before us, calling us toward who we might become. But as we move through our days, other gods call to us and doubt confounds us. Distractions blur our vision;**

**indifference beckons and we lose our way. We search, we listen; praying that you will be our guide. We know we can trust in you at all times, for you are our refuge and our salvation; so, with confidence, we pour out our hearts in confession.**

**We confess to you, Steadfast God, that we often wander from the path of love upon which we were meant to walk. Fears divide us, prejudice hardens us, violence destroys us. But you eternally beckon. We turn our hearts again to you, God of grace and mercy. Forgive us love that is self-satisfying, and teach us love that is affirming of all. Forgive us faith that makes us rush to judgment, and give us faith that is filled with compassion. Forgive us peace that was constructed based on division, and unite us in peace that passes understanding. We pray with thanksgiving in Jesus' name; Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing\*\*

Pastor Rick

By God's mercy, our feet are set again upon the path of faithfulness; our hearts are set again upon God's direction in our lives. We are all blessed and beloved by God. Praise be to God!

\*Prayer Response

"Spirit of the Living God"

NCH #283

**Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me!  
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me!  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!  
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me!**

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

Response

"This Little Light of Mine"

**This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!  
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!  
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!**

Living our Mission

"School Supply Collection"

Mahree Skala

Anthem

The Keithahn Family & Connie Loveless, accompanist  
"Praise the Source of All Creation"

Jann Aldredge-Clanton

*Praise the Source of all creation, giving life throughout the Earth,  
blessing every love relation, filling all with sacred worth.  
Celebrate all forms and colors, varied beauty everywhere,  
streams of goodness overflowing, wondrous gifts for all to share.*

*Many genders, many races, all reflect Divinity;  
many gifts and many graces help us be all we can be.  
Partners on this path of freedom, taking down each stifling wall,  
we will open doors of welcome, bringing hope and joy to all.*

*Long have many been excluded, judged and scorned by custom's norms;  
everyone will be included as we work to bring reforms.  
Let us end abuse and violence, bringing justice everywhere,  
joining Holy Wisdom's mission, helping all be free and fair.*

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 13 Lindsey Oberle  
*The Psalmist reflects on God's presence in their life, lamenting the struggles and persecutions they have endured at the hands of their oppressors, but trusting in God for deliverance. The Psalmist begins the psalm with lament but ends it with thankfulness for the bounty God has provided.*

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:40-42 Lindsey Oberle  
*Jesus preaches a message of inclusion; inferring that those who practice exclusion are not just excluding others, they are excluding Jesus from their midst.*

Sermon: "Dignity up for Debate" Pastor Rick

\*Meditation Hymn "In the Midst of New Dimensions" NCH #391

\*Litany of Affirmation\*\* Pastor Rick

**As one family of faith, uniting in creating an Open and Affirming community,  
We celebrate the unity we are creating as we embrace diversity.  
We believe in God's creative, affirming love for all that is.**

**We affirm the inherent beauty, worth, and dignity of every person, including those  
who are often oppressed because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.  
We believe that God does not make junk.**

**We believe there are many paths to the sacred; and the spiritual paths of people with  
diversity in sexual orientation and gender identity are among them.  
We believe that God's Wisdom may be known in a variety of diverse ways.**

**We believe that sexual orientation and gender identity is not a choice; the true choice  
is whether or not to live an authentic life, as God created us.  
We believe that God rejoices when we reveal to the world our full and true selves.**

**We believe that God encourages covenants; and encourages sacred union for all  
people who are committed to each other without regard to gender.  
We believe love makes a family, not gender identity.**

**We believe that as spiritual leaders in the world, we have a responsibility to lead,  
protect and affirm people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity; and that  
God inspires us to do this.**

**We believe that nobody is free when others are oppressed; that God cries out with the  
persecuted and that their yearning for freedom is also God's yearning for justice.  
We believe God's love is Steadfast and eternal; and we strive to embody that love in  
our interactions with each other. Amen.**

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer

The 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.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is  
the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response                    “Grant Us Peace”  
**Hear our Prayer, O Lord!**  
**Hear our prayer, O Lord!**  
**Hear our Prayer, O Lord!**  
**And Grant us Thy Peace! A-men!**



Sharing our Announcements of Community Life

Presenting our Gifts

“They’ll Know We are Christians”

Amy Crousore  
*Scholtes/Putnam*

*To give online text “GIVE” to 573.240.4041 and follow the prompts  
You can also give online by visiting our website: [www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)*

\*Response

“We Praise You, O God”

*NCH #420*

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;  
We bless your Holy name, glad praises we sing!**

\*Prayer of Dedication \*\*

Lindsey Oberle

**God of love; may your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your Kingdom that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. May these gifts that we give today be indicators of our passion; and may they be used to bring your Kingdom to fruition here on earth. Amen.**

\*Benediction

Pastor Rick

\*Response:

“Let There be Peace on Earth”

**Let there be Peace on Earth and Let it Begin with me!  
Let there be Peace on Earth; the Peace that was meant to be!  
With God our Creator, Children all are we!  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony!  
Let Peace begin with me; let this be the moment now!  
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!  
Let there be Peace on Earth; and let it begin with me!**

\*Postlude

“Grand Epilogue”

Amy Crousore  
*Edward Broughton*

*\*\*Portions of today’s liturgy are from  
“Welcoming Resources,” a program of the National Gay & Lesbian Task force.  
Permission is granted to reprint individual selections for congregational use  
[www.welcomingresources.org](http://www.welcomingresources.org)*

### **CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant:**

Columbia United Church of Christ celebrates God's boundless and unconditional love by intentionally welcoming and affirming all God's children.

- No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey;
- No matter where you are on your faith journey;
- No matter your sexual orientation, gender expression or identity;
- No matter your race, culture, ethnicity, nationality or politics;
- No matter your age, ability, health, relationship status or family structure;
- No matter your social, economic, educational, legal or life circumstances;
- You are welcome here!

Called by Jesus to be an Open and Affirming, inclusive faith community, Columbia United Church of Christ commits to welcoming everyone into the full life of our congregation. Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together.

*CUCC celebrates God's boundless love by:  
Welcoming all God's People;  
Nurturing Faith and Spiritual Growth;  
Challenging and inspiring everyone with vibrant worship;  
Building a supportive church family;  
Transforming both the congregation and community  
through service and outreach*

# 494 They'll Know We Are Christians

Guitar capo: 1; play Em  
Unison

Em

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

Am Em

we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

Am Em

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:  
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain C G C G Em Am

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love,

WORDS and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, 1966

ST. BRENDAN'S  
76.76.86 w. refrain

Em Am Bm Em

yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Weave

495

E♭ Gm Fm E♭ Fm E♭

Weave, weave, weave us to- geth- er. Weave us to- geth - er in

Fm B♭ E♭ Gm Fm E♭

u- ni- ty and love. Weave, weave, weave us to - geth - er.

Fm E♭ B♭ E♭ A♭ E♭

Weave us to - geth - er, to - geth- er in love.

# In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,  
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,  
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,  
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,  
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?  
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?  
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.  
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.  
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

*Refrain*  
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain  
 Julian Rush, 1985  
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994