



# First Congregational Church of Anoka United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

February 12, 2023 ♦ 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany



This bulletin is designed to assist you as you watch our livestreamed worship service, whether you follow along live or view it at a later time.

The stream can be found on our YouTube channel at this location:

<https://www.youtube.com/@AnokaUCC>

Gathering Music

“Under African Skies”

Paul Simon

*Anoka UCC String Band*

*Joseph's face was black as the night / and the pale yellow moon shone in his eyes.  
His path was marked by the stars of the Southern Hemisphere  
and he walked his days under African skies.*

*This is the story of how we begin to remember.  
This is the powerful pulsing of love in the vein.  
After the dream of falling and calling your name out,  
these are the roots of rhythm and the roots of rhythm remain.*

*In early memory, mission music was ringing around my nursery door  
I said, 'Take this child, Lord, from the township where she was born.  
Give her the wings to fly through harmony and she won't bother you no more.'*

## Welcome & Announcements

*If you are a guest with us today, welcome! If you are comfortable sharing your information with us, there are cards in the pew holders that you can use for that purpose (place them in the offering plate).*

*If you would like to join our mailing list, email [office@uccanoka.org](mailto:office@uccanoka.org) and ask to be added.*

\* Opening Hymn

“Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us” #583

**Like a mother who has borne us, held us close in her delight,  
fed us freely from her body, God has called us into life.**

**Like a father who has taught us, grasped our hand and been our guide,  
lifted us and healed our sorrows, God has walked with us in life.**

**Though as children we have wandered, placed our trust in power and might,  
left behind our brothers, sisters, God still calls us into life.**

**When we offer food and comfort, grasp our neighbor's hand in love,  
tread the path of peace and justice, God still walks with us in life.**

\* Call to Worship and Opening Prayer (*adapted from Psalm 146*)

One: Hallelujah! Praise the Ageless One, O my soul!

**Many: I will praise the Ever-Living God all my life, singing praises to God throughout my living.**

One: Put not your trust in empires, for there is no help in them.

**Many: When they breathe their last, they perish and return to the earth.**

One: Happy are those for whom the God of Rebekah's line is their help!

**Many: Our hope is in the Creator of All, our God!**

One: Let us pray.

**Many: Maker of heavens and earth, keep faith forever. Bring justice to the oppressed, and bread to the hungry. Set the prisoners free! Open the eyes of those who refuse to see, and lift up those who are bowed down, so that we may do all of that and more. Help us to care for the stranger, the orphan, and the widow! You are the Mother of us all, Holy One, reigning forever in Love. Hallelujah!**

Special Music

“Keep Your Eyes on the Prize”

Pete Seeger

*Anoka UCC String Band*

*Paul and Silas were bound in jail; had no money for to go their bail.*

*Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on, hold on.*

*Paul and Silas thought they were lost but the dungeon shook and the chains came off.*

*Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on, hold on.*

*The only chain that folks can stand is the chain of people walking hand in hand.*

*Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on, hold on.*

*We're on our way to freedom now. Don't let go, there's a row to plow.*

*Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on, hold on.*

*The only thing we did was wrong was stayin' in the wilderness way too long.*

*Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on, hold on.*

*The only thing we did was right was stand in peace to face the fight.*

*Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on, hold on.*

*Well I got my hands on the gospel plow. Wouldn't take nothing for my journey now.*

*Keep your hands on the plow of God.*

A Time for Children (10:30)

*ADVISORY: The livestream of the service continues during the Children's Time; if your child sits facing the Pastor their face shouldn't appear on camera.*

An Argentine folk song.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dore you! My  
 ¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi



heart knows how to say to you: You are ho - ly, Lord!  
 co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res, Dios!

(10:30) Children ages 3 and up may depart at this time for Sunday school.

Activity bags are available in the back of the sanctuary for those who might enjoy them.

### Scripture Reading – Revelation 12:1-6, 13-17

A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. <sup>2</sup> She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. <sup>3</sup> Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. <sup>4</sup> His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. <sup>5</sup> And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; <sup>6</sup> and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred sixty days.

<sup>13</sup> So when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. <sup>14</sup> But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle, so that she could fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to her place where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. <sup>15</sup> Then from his mouth the serpent poured water like a river after the woman, to sweep her away with the flood. <sup>16</sup> But the earth came to the help of the woman; it opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. <sup>17</sup> Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on

the rest of her children, those who keep the commandments of God and hold the testimony of Jesus.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Chris McArdle

Hymn

“O Grant Us Light” #469

**O grant us light, that we may know wisdom that you alone can give,  
that truth may guide us as we go, and virtue bless the lives we live.**

**O grant us light that we may find where error lurks in human lore,  
and turn to you our seeking minds, and love your holy Word the more.**

**O grant us light, that we may learn how dead is life from you apart,  
how sure is joy for all who turn to you an undivided heart.**

**O grant us light, when soon or late, all earthly scenes shall pass away,  
in you to find the open gate, to deathless home and endless day.**

Prayers of the People

*If you wish to share a prayer with the congregation (joy, concern, hope, worry, or anything at all), raise your hand and a Deacon will bring you a microphone. Offer your prayer and finish by saying, “God in your love” to which we will all respond, “Hear our prayer.”*

Sung Prayer



Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -  
cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

Prayer of Our Savior (unison)

*The Prayer has many versions; pray whichever you desire (debts, sins, trespasses, etc.).  
We affirm that God has many names, so use one of the suggested or another of your choosing.*

**Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Offering

Text-to-Give: [844-334-1477](tel:844-334-1477)

*Thank you for your gifts to our ministries!  
If you are watching from home (live or later), please consider adding to the Offering  
by sending your gifts by mail, text, or online ([uccanoka.org/donate](http://uccanoka.org/donate)).*

Offertory

Koki Sato

\* Doxology

NUN DANKET

*“Now Thank We All Our God” #419 v. 3*

**All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,  
to Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven.  
The one, eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore!**

\* Benediction

\* Congregational Blessing

“God Be With You” (#809)

Dorsey/Hutchins

**God be with you. God be with you. God be with you ‘til we meet again.  
O God be with you. God be with you. God be with you ‘til we meet again.**

Postlude

Koki Sato

*You may be seated as you listen to the Postlude. If you choose to depart at this time,  
please speak gently as you exit out of respect for those who choose to listen.*

Acknowledgements

Reprinted music is covered under OneLicense.net #A-715296.

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

◆ **First Congregational Church UCC, Anoka, MN** ◆

1923 Third Avenue, Anoka, MN 55303 ◆ (763) 421-3375

Pastor – Rev. Chris McArdle

Minister of Visitation – Pastor Kelsey Renk

Director of Music Ministries – Don Shier

Keyboardist – Koki Sato

Moderator – Terja Larsen

Website: <http://www.uccanoka.org> ◆ Email: [office@uccanoka.org](mailto:office@uccanoka.org)

Text-to-Give: 844-334-1477



*First Congregational Church, UCC of Anoka is an Open and Affirming Christian Community for all. We affirm that the image of God is most fully reflected in diversity. We invite all people to share their energy and talents in full participation with our community. We welcome all individuals and families of any sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, relationship status, race, national origin, socioeconomic status, age, mental and physical health or ability, or belief. Together, we celebrate these and all other facets of one's essential being.*