



Toward the Sun
Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 26, 2022

MEDITATION

“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

–Nelson Mandela

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

P: And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **All: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Gill Le Fevre, adapted*)

Chris Polloni, Deacon

L: We come this morning with distracted minds,

All: Full of our concerns, our plans, our opinions, and our schedules.

L: Help us to empty our minds of the relentless ‘I’ and make space for you.

All: Enable us to put down our priorities, to set aside our assumptions and schemes.

L: Open our hearts to recognize your love in action in our lives.

All: Reassure us of your divine vision, and let us rest in your unending care.

***SONG FOR SEASON OF PENTECOST**

“Spirit of the Living God” (2x)

Black 283

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Chris Polloni, Deacon

L: O Lord, you delight in righteousness and justice, and we are grateful for the comforts of our homes. We confess that the places we call home sometimes constrain us from seeing the world as you see it. Sometimes we don’t recognize how those same comforts are denied to others. **All: Loosen our chains and set us free.**

L: O Lord, you delight in righteousness and justice, and we are grateful for steady work and income on which we depend. We confess that our anxieties about not having enough can keep us from seeing others' suffering. Sometimes we fail to recognize the needs of those for whom opportunities are regularly denied.

All: Loosen our chains and set us free.

L: O Lord, you delight in righteousness and justice, we are grateful for the freedoms we enjoy. We confess that our fears too often put us in prisons of our own making. Rather than face uncertainties, we let our fears become a prison, not only for ourselves but others as well. **All: Loosen our chains and set us free.**

L: O Lord, you delight in righteousness and justice, we are grateful for relationships of love and friendship. We confess that sometimes we let these bonds keep us from hearing the voices of those excluded from the care and support on which we depend.

All: Loosen our chains and set us free.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

John Checklick

P: Christ who is in you, who is in me, who is in all that exists, calls us into a unity through which all creation and all peoples are nourished by God's living waters. Christ breaks the chains that hold back our compassion, unlocks the doors that keep us from living justly, and gives us salvation's song of freedom. **All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

"Nearer, My God to You"

Black 606

NEW TESTAMENT READING – Luke 9: 51-62

Chris Polloni, Deacon

OLD TESTAMENT READING – 2Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14

John Checklick

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

"Toward the Sun"

John Checklick

***RESPONSIVE HYMN**

"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant"

Black 539

PASTORAL PRAYER AND JOY & CONCERNS

After the Pastoral Prayer you are invited to share your joys and concerns. When names are spoken out loud, you are invited to respond, "O Lord, hear our prayers."

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 of our daily bread, and forgive us of 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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"* *African-American Spiritual*
Soloist: Alan King

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

***UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Patient and empowering God, bless these gifts and use them for your purpose in the world. Bless our own gifts and inspire us to see your path for our service. May the gifts we offer let hope prevail where despair has taken hold, let compassion grow in the place of judgment, and let peace flourish and heal the fractures in our world. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *"Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"* *281 Black*

***BENEDICTION**

May the love which overcomes all differences
Heal all wounds,
Free all those who are bound,
Put to flight all fears,
And reconcile all who are separated,
Friends, put your face toward the sun and let these shadows fall behind you. Amen.

POSTLUDE

**Stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

MINISTERING TO US TODAY

Chris Polloni Deacon, and John Checklick will be leading us in worship today. We are grateful to Libby Lannon* and Alan King for providing the music, and to Hope Oliveira our technical staff for the day. Thank you for ministering to us in these ways.

Music covered under One License # A-728849.

**Our guest organist today is Libby Lannon. She has played many times at NFCC. We are pleased to have her playing again today. Please welcome her after the service.*