

**The First Congregational Church
in Thetford, Vermont**



July 3, 2022

Rev. Robin Junker-Boyce, Pastor
Maureen Burford, Church Musician & Choir Director
www.thetfordhillchurch.org

Morning Worship

July 3, 2022

A Service of Silence, Song and Spoken Word

PH stands for Pilgrim Hymnal (red); *NCH* stands for New Century Hymnal (black)

**All who are able, please stand.*

Silent Prayer

Prelude *Listen to the word* Canadian Mennonite trad. Church Singers

Greeting and Announcements

Call to Worship

We come here seeking solace

We come here seeking peace

We come here to celebrate baptism

We come to commune with one another

We come in the name of love to guide us

Come, let us worship

Hymn NCH #417 *This is the Day of New Beginnings verses 1, 3, 4 and **

Prayer of Confession

Silence

The Lord's Prayer (*trespasses*)

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Silence

Scripture Passages Luke 10:1-7 & the Prayer of St. Francis

Scot Zens, reader

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Baptismal & Communion Meditation

*Summer Sermon Series - Instruments of Peace; Sowing Seeds of Love
(based on the Prayer of St. Francis in conversation with the gospel)*

Rev. Robin Junker-Boyce

Silence for Reflection

Sacrament of Baptism

*It is our great joy this morning to baptize
Maura Bea Conerty,
daughter of Danielle Marie Conerty & Michael James Conerty*

Questions of Candidate

*Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and
family of Jesus Christ?*

*Respecting divine mystery beyond our human knowing, revealed but
not restricted to the stories of our faith, will you strive to help Maura
remain open to the infinite ways in which this divine mystery continues
to reveal itself in the universe? (If so, please respond, "We will")*

*Do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to grow
with Maura on her spiritual journey and share with her the
fundamental stories about Jesus and his teachings? (If so, please
respond, "We do.")*

*Will you show Maura how to follow in his way, speaking the
truth in love, welcoming the unwelcome, resisting oppression, offering
hope, and seeking compassion, especially when hope and compassion
seem unattainable? (If so, please respond, "We will")*

*And finally, will you, as best you are able, encourage Maura
to practice the greatest commandment, to love the Lord your God with
all your heart, all your mind, all your soul and all your strength as
well as the second greatest commandment, to love your neighbor as
yourself? (We will as best we are able)*

(The pastor will lead the liturgy of baptism, asking you to join in during the
Congregational Assent and the Prayer of Dedication listed below)

Congregational Assent

Pastor: Jesus calls us to offer others the grace we have received. Do you,
who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and
care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

People: **We promise our love, support and care.**

Prayer of Dedication for the Newly Baptized (prayed in unison)

God of wonder and grace, we are grateful for the love revealed here this day
at the baptism of Maura Bea. We pray for the courage and grace to uphold
our promises and provide a safe shelter of love in which this child may grow
and play. We pray that Danielle and Mike feel our support and care as they
raise Maura to walk with a God of hope, compassion, justice and love
throughout her life. Amen.

Offertory* *Lullaby* by Billy Joel (in honor of Maura's baptism)
Mark and Martha Tecca, vocalists

***Doxology** Tune: PH #515
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

***Reading of the Covenant**

General Covenant, adopted April 9, 2000
Beloved God, we covenant with you and with one another, as you
have with us, and bind ourselves in your presence:
to walk together in your holy ways;
to love and support one another wherever our paths may lead;
to seek to know your will and strive to do it.

We commit ourselves to the ministry of this church,
and depend upon your Holy Spirit to guide and empower us.

We embrace community with all creation, in the way of Jesus Christ,
promoting understanding and compassion, justice and peace.
We remain open to and affirming of all,
having in essentials, unity,
in non-essentials, liberty,
and in all things, charity.

Communion Liturgy

Passing of the Peace

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Let us offer each other the peace of Christ.

The Blessing of the Bread and the Cup

Holy One, breathe your Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this cup,
That they may be heaven's food and drink for us,
Renewing, sustaining and making us whole,
And that we may be your body on earth
Loving and caring in the world.

Communion Song *The Peace of the Earth* Guatemalan trad. All sing

Shared Prayers of Joy and Concern

*During this prayer time, the group willingly offers their listening presence.
Out of the silence, individuals moved to speak may offer a brief prayer of
gratitude, grief or concern. All intentions, both spoken and unspoken, are
held in the light of God's love.*

*Benediction

*Postlude *Let There Be Peace On Earth (in a circle)*

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
Siblings all are we
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry 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

FAITH

417

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

2 Cor. 5:16-17

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and
* In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.
gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

*Alternate fourth stanza for Holy Communion

Brian Wren wrote this hymn in 1978 for a New Year's Day service in Oxford, England. The music is by the editor of two hymnals of the United Methodist Church and was composed for the original Wren text.

Tune: BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.
Carlton R. Young, 1987

The peace of the earth

From Guatemala comes this beautiful blessing which, as regards the text, could almost have come from the ancient British Celtic traditions.

It was noted down by a former musician at Iona Abbey and member of the Wild Goose Worship Group who worked as a volunteer for a year in Guatemala.

It may be sung once or repeatedly as members of an assembly bless each other as they leave.

The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens too;
the peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace falling over you;
God's peace growing in you.

Words: Guatemalan traditional; trans. Christine Carson
Music: Guatemalan traditional; arr. John L. Bell

gently

The peace of the earth — be with you, the peace of the hea - vens too; — the
peace of the riv - ers be with you, the peace of the o - ceans too. —
Deep — peace, deep — peace — fall - ing ov - er you;
God's — peace, God's — peace — grow - ing in you.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four systems. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The tempo is marked 'gently'. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Church Calendar

Summer Service Series: The Prayer of St. Francis

July 3: Sowing Seeds of Love/Baptism of Maura Bea Conerty

July 10: Sowing Seeds of Pardon

July 17: Sowing Seeds of Faith

July 24: Sowing Seeds of Hope

July 8: Celebration of Life: Robert (Bob) Stone 2pm Service; Reception follows

July 11-15: Pastor Robin working remotely from Gloucester, MA

July 18-19: Pastor Robin working remotely from Gloucester, MA

July 25 - August 17: Pastor Robin on vacation

July 30: Thetford Hill Fair

July 31: Rev. Mary Browlow leads service

August 7: Rev. Doug Moore leads service

August 14: Rev. Mary Thompson leads service

September 4: 9:30am Summer Worship Time Ends

Today's Announcements

- THANK YOU to our Tech Teens: Emilia Williams, Adi Alsup, & Uly Junker-Boyce
- July Deacon on Duty is Scot Zens.
- Pastor Robin will be on vacation from July 25 - August 17. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact our church moderator, Allan Bieber at Ajb801642@outlook.com.
- The Church Window is our weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to receive it, please email office@thetfordhillchurch.org

To Our Visitors

If you are new among us, welcome! Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We are an Open and Affirming congregation. You are invited to become a part of our life together. Our goal is to be a loving and caring church, and we hope you feel this. Please help us to know you by introducing yourself, filling out a contact card on the Welcome Table at the back of the sanctuary, and joining us in fellowship following the service.

A Word about our Liturgy

The First Congregational Church on Thetford Hill is a progressive church community that values words and silence.

About our words: Our intention is to be inclusive and loving in our choices. As such, you may find some traditional wording of prayers, hymns, etc., adjusted to be more in line with our values. In general, we choose text that is non-paternalistic, non-violent and non-judgmental. At times and for some occasions, we may elect to use traditional wording. This is a journey in progress as we find our way with reinterpreting old text and customs to fit modern times and progressive values.

About our silences: This congregation has a history of valuing silence and meditation. Typically the silence following the prayer of confession will last a duration of two minutes, and the silence for reflection after the sermon for a duration of three minutes.