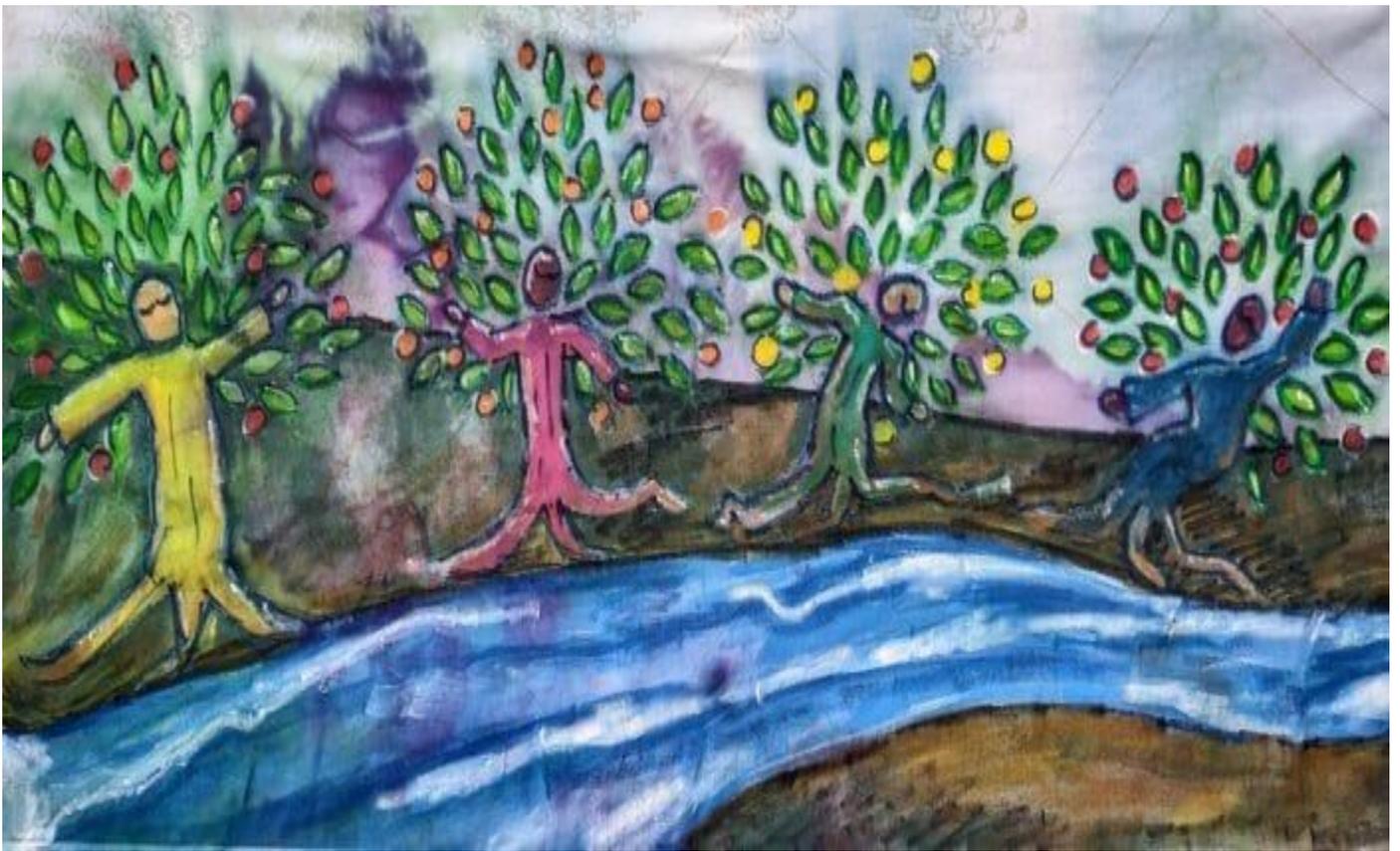


***First Congregational Church***  
United Church of Christ  
3 Gray Road, North Yarmouth, Maine 04097  
**Organized in 1806**



**Living Psalm 1-Pentecost 17B - United Church of Christ**

**Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost  
September 19, 2021 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

**To Change the World, Welcome the Children  
Service Prayers for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 19, 2021

Prelude

Fantasies # 2 & 8 Opus 12

Robert Schumann

**Sung: *God welcomes all! Strangers and friends!  
God's love is strong! And it never ends!***

Words: John L. Bell, Music: South African traditional,  
transcribed by John L. Bell at the Sunrise Hospice, Themba  
Text: © 2008, GIA/Iona Community / WGRG

Welcome and Announcements

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Jesus challenges us in today's gospel:

**Many: Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.**

One: Then Jesus took a little child and put it among them;  
and taking the child in his arms, he said to them:

**Many: Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.  
And whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.**

One: We are still learning today  
what Jesus came to teach us two thousand years ago.  
To change the world  
we must change the way we love and welcome all children!

**Many: May we learn to love all children as if they were our own!**

One: Will all the children present please lift up your voices  
so all of us adults can hear you?

Say your name and say "Hello!"

**All: Welcome, children!**

\*Hymn

This Is the Day (Sung Acapella)  
Words: Psalm 118:24, para. Les Garrett, 1967  
Music: Les Garrett, 1967

#286

**This is the day, this is the day that the lord has made,  
that the Lord has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice  
and be glad in it and be glad in it.**

**This is the day that the Lord has made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day  
that the Lord has made.  
Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice, rejoice and again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice, rejoice and again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.**

### **INVOCATION**

Dear God,  
Jesus has called us to welcome children as a way to welcome you.  
So please, hear our voices as we welcome the children in our midst:  
We welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ!  
And please, dear God of compassion and justice, hear our voices:  
With the presence of our children we welcome you!  
Teach us the way to make the last first and to be servants of all.  
Guide us in your way of humility and service.  
Show us how to become disciples of Jesus Christ  
your Child and our brother.  
We ask for blessings on all your children in our holy family. Amen.

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us think about all the children in our own lives, our community's life,  
and in our world. What are their needs; where do we fail as individuals and  
community in welcome, nurture and care for them? (Silence)

Silence

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Dear God,  
We often have not welcomed the children as Jesus has commanded.  
Too many children in our community and world  
suffer from violence, abuse, neglect and poverty.  
We know that if we were to join together to welcome and care,  
to celebrate and honor our children we would save ourselves and our world.  
We need forgiveness. We want to make amends. We want to change.  
We want to learn to welcome all children, for in loving and caring for them,  
we welcome your reign of justice and peace.

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

We give thanks for our savior and teacher Jesus Christ,  
who was born among us as a child needing nurture and care,  
and grew to reveal your power to make all things new.  
We give thanks and rejoice that in Christ we are forgiven  
and given strength to grow in discipleship. Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading Mark 9:30-37

Message

Rev. Nancy J. White

\*Hymn Sister, Let me be your Servant #490  
Words: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.  
Music; Richard Gillard, 1977; arr. A. Eugene Ellsworth, 1994

**Sister, let me be your servant, brother, let me walk with you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow trav'lers on the road.  
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all  
we've known together of great love and agony.**

**Brother, let me be your servant, sister, let me walk with you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

Prayers of the People **and 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. And lead us  
not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and  
the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## **CALL TO THE OFFERING**

O God, you who have given us life,  
you who have made every child a holy child,



**To Change the World, Welcome the Children: Service Prayers for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost** was written by the Rev. Bonnie Tarwater of San Diego, CA.



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YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](https://www.youtube.com/c/nyccucc)

Due to the Corona Virus-Covid-19, this service was held in-person and live streamed on YouTube with all CDC protocols in place.

If you are not receiving church emails and would like to, please send an email to [nyarmouthcucc@gmail.com](mailto:nyarmouthcucc@gmail.com) asking to be added to the list. Like the NYCC FB page and you will be notified of what is happening there, too!

Offering can also be made online through Tithely at  
<https://tithe.ly/give?c=1301940>

