



Community UCC, 805 South 6th Street, Champaign, IL 61820
Worship for Ordinary Time 29A Emergent Strategy Week 6: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds: A worship series
in concert with the Emergent Strategy by Adrienne Maree Brown
Live Stream Service
October 18, 2020



Community UCC

We're worth our words
Welcoming Progressive Community
Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois *Worship for Ordinary Time 29A Emergent Strategy Week 6: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds* Oct. 18, 2020
Words before Worship:

“Nothing in nature is disposable. Part of the resilience of nature is that nothing in nature is wasted. The earth swallows it all through mouths or soil or water. This is such a simple beautiful truth. Everything is food, fuel, compost, a home for some other creature... ‘Nothing in nature is disposable’ – this isn’t most people’s beliefs...no one is disposable and yet – we have a right to make boundaries..”Never a failure, always a lesson.”” -- Adrienne Maree Brown

Welcome and a Word About Worship

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

It is the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time in the Christian Calendar and today, we continue “Shaping Change, Changing Worlds: A worship series in concert with Emergent Strategy by Adrienne Maree Brown”. In this series we acknowledge that our world is rapidly changing and yet we also name that we shape the futures in which we want to live. As Christian people, we arrive at this future shaping work as followers in the Way of Jesus. We live in complex times – even something like family relationships are complicated these days given our political strife in this country. How might our faith help us navigate it? How might this contemporary wisdom speak to the practice of our faith? This morning, we are thinking particularly about resilience amid change: how might we give ourselves over to God’s transforming ways when we experience loss or betrayal, pain and hardship, brokenness, or attack? Today, we will look at the Joseph story – the complicated story of Joseph and his family, and ask, if God intends everything for good, how might that make us more resilient when we face complexities and brokenness in life. It’s so relevant in these days in which we live. As we sit with these questions, I would invite you to take a deep breath. And another. Breathe fully down to your toes. Exhale just as fully. Continue to breathe deeply, with intention, as we prepare ourselves for worship.

Prelude

O How I Love Jesus

Brian Clark

Music Composer: Trad., arr. Carol Tornquist

Call to Worship

Brin Schuler

Thank you for being here today, for opening yourself to this moment, for choosing to be in community. Wherever you are in the world, wherever you are beginning, take a deep breath and notice how you feel in your body.

Remember the sacredness of your body – we practice an incarnational faith.

Notice how the world around you feels.

Remember, we practice a lived faith.

Take a breath for the day you have had so far. And a breath for this precious moment, which cannot be recreated.

Remember, we practice a creational and re-creational faith.

Take another breath, and another.

Now, take another breathe for the day and night coming.

Hear these words: here you are, in the cycle between the past and the future, choosing to spend your miraculous time in community, in worship, and in these coming weeks in the exploration of how humans, especially those seeking to grow liberation and justice, can learn from the world around us.

We welcome you to our service this morning. Celebrating the diversity of creation, Community United Church welcomes persons of any age, ability, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or life condition. May the Divine Presence become real to you through this time of worship. We hope you come back!

Remember, we practice a faith wherein Jesus was always pointing at the Holy in the world around – in the lost sheep, the widow woman, the birds of the air.

We can learn from the world around us, how to best collaborate, how to shape change.

Invocation

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Hear these poetic words from Emergent Strategy. And as you hear them, remember what I say to you each Ash Wednesday when the palm ash, mixed with one another's released burdens, are smudged on your forehead, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return, as ordinary as dust, as precious as stardust." Brown writes:

i am not afraid
of what i came here to do
i'm made of stardust
we are not afraid
of what we're called now to do
we're all made of god

Opening Song

In the Bulb There is a Flower

NCH 433 v 1-3

Led by Elena Kasper
Words and Music Natalie Sleeth

*In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

Passing the Peace

Anthem

Resilience

CUCC Choir

Words and Music by Abbie Betinis

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Justice Choir Songbook Volume 1

www.justicechoir.org

Prelude to Scripture

Brin Schuler

Whether we take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth, or story, let us listen now to the meaning they might hold for us on this day.

Sacred Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Selected Readings from Genesis

To follow along please turn to page 6

Postlude to Scripture

Together, let us say:

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.

Song

This is the Day of New Beginnings

NCH 417

First Congregational UCC, San Bernardino, CA.

Words by Brian Wren, Music by Carlton R. Young

*This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember,
and move on, time to believe what love is
bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.*

*For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty
Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of
difference as faith and hope are born again.*

*Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the
past, and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and
grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.*

*Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and
share what love can do. This is a day of new
beginnings our God is making all things new.*

Message

Lessons in Resiliency from Joseph: Learning to recover and transform

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Call to Offering and Call for Prayer Requests

Ilsa Kantola

Our giving shapes our immediate future and the future of people we will never even meet. When our giving is combined, we operate on the scale of transformation. If you have finances to share, please go to www.community-ucc.org and click donate in order to give. Thank you so much for your contribution. May God bless and multiply all that we offer.

(Prayer requests may be submitted by using the Chat Button on Zoom and Commenting on Facebook. These requests will be voiced by the Pastor during the Prayers of the People following the Offertory.)

Sharing our Prayer Requests

- Chase Skye
- Mike Lofu
- Jubilee Café Guests
 - Mark Wood
 - Leo Wood and family
- Violence against our black and brown siblings
 - Shataean Kelly
 - Jonathan Price
 - Kee Sam
 - Mia Green
 - Felycya Harris
 - Aerrion Burnett
 - Sara Blackwood
- Residual trauma all black and brown people experience every time there is trauma against black and brown people in this country.
- Michelle Ramos Vargas
- People of our country

Offertory

Rise

Kathy Lee, Jennifer Kew,
Kecia and Jim Waldschmidt

Words and Music by Abbie Betinis

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Justice Choir Songbook Volume 1

www.justicechoir.org

Morning Prayer and Prayer of the People

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Today's morning prayer is "All Shall Be Well: A Closing Prayer for Making it Through Together" by Britney Winn Lee from the book Rally: Communal Prayers for Lovers of Jesus and Justice.

Closing Song

Guide My Feet

NCH 497

Led by CUCC Choir

African American traditional, Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson

*Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet
while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.*

*Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand
while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.*

*I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child
while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.*

*Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me
while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.*

Genesis 42:1-25

When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, ‘Why do you keep looking at one another? ²¹I have heard’, he said, ‘that there is grain in Egypt; go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die.’ ³So ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. ⁴But Jacob did not send Joseph’s brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he feared that harm might come to him. ⁵Thus the sons of Israel were among the other people who came to buy grain, for the famine had reached the land of Canaan.

⁶Now Joseph was governor over the land; it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph’s brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. ⁷When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke harshly to them. ‘Where do you come from?’ he said. They said, ‘From the land of Canaan, to buy food.’ ⁸Although Joseph had recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. ⁹Joseph also remembered the dreams that he had dreamed about them. He said to them, ‘You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land!’ ¹⁰They said to him, ‘No, my lord; your servants have come to buy food. ¹¹We are all sons of one man; we are honest men; your servants have never been spies.’ ¹²But he said to them, ‘No, you have come to see the nakedness of the land!’ ¹³They said, ‘We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of a certain man in the land of Canaan; the youngest, however, is now with our father, and one is no more.’ ¹⁴But Joseph said to them, ‘It is just as I have said to you; you are spies! ¹⁵Here is how you shall be tested: as Pharaoh lives, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here! ¹⁶Let one of you go and bring your brother, while the rest of you remain in prison, in order that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you; or else, as Pharaoh lives, surely you are spies.’ ¹⁷And he put them all together in prison for three days.

¹⁸On the third day Joseph said to them, ‘Do this and you will live, for I fear God: ¹⁹if you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here where you are imprisoned. The rest of you shall go and carry grain for the famine of your households, ²⁰and bring your youngest brother to me. Thus your words will be verified, and you shall not die.’ And they agreed to do so. ²¹They said to one another, ‘Alas, we are paying the penalty for what we did to our brother; we saw his anguish when he pleaded with us, but we would not listen. That is why this anguish has come upon us.’ ²²Then Reuben answered them, ‘Did I not tell you not to wrong the boy? But you would not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood.’ ²³They did not know that Joseph understood them, since he spoke with them through an interpreter. ²⁴He turned away from them and wept; then he returned and spoke to them. And he picked out Simeon and had him bound before their eyes. ²⁵Joseph then gave orders to fill their bags with grain, to return every man’s money to his sack, and to give them provisions for their journey. This was done for them.

Genesis 43:26-34

²⁶When Joseph came home, they brought him the present that they had carried into the house, and bowed to the ground before him. ²⁷He inquired about their welfare, and said, ‘Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?’ ²⁸They said, ‘Your servant our father is well; he is still alive.’ And they bowed their heads and did obeisance. ²⁹Then he looked up and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother’s son, and said, ‘Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you, my son!’ ³⁰With that, Joseph hurried out, because he was overcome with affection for his brother, and he was about to weep. So he went into a private room and wept there. ³¹Then he washed his face and came out; and controlling himself he said, ‘Serve the meal.’ ³²They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians. ³³When they were seated before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth, the men looked at one another in amazement. ³⁴Portions were taken to them from Joseph’s table, but Benjamin’s portion was five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank and were merry with him.

Genesis 44:32- 45:15

³²For your servant became surety for the boy to my father, saying, “If I do not bring him back to you, then I will bear the blame in the sight of my father all my life.” ³³Now therefore, please let your servant remain as a slave to my lord in place of the boy; and let the boy go back with his brothers. ³⁴For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the suffering that would come upon my father.’

⁴⁵Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, ‘Send everyone away from me.’ So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come closer to me.’ And they came closer. He said, ‘I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.” ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.’ ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Genesis 50:15-23

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, ‘What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?’ ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, ‘Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷“Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.” Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.’ Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, ‘We are here as your slaves.’ ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.’ In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

²² So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father’s household; and Joseph lived for one hundred and ten years. ²³Joseph saw Ephraim’s children of the third generation; the children of Machir son of Manasseh were also born on Joseph’s knees.

Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC

Preacher: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Liturgist: Brin Schuler

Organist: Brian Clark

Director of Music Ministry: Kathy Lee

Audio/Video: Director of Campus Ministry, Rev Nate Brantingham

Audio/Video: Andy Contreras, Andrew Gupta

Zoom Room Greeter: Peg and Roger Wade

CUCC Staff

Pastor: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser leah@community-ucc.org	Parish Associate: Rev. Connie Bandy connie@community-ucc.org
Director of Youth Ministries: Jessica Smiley jessica@community-ucc.org	Director of Music Ministries: Kathy Lee music@community-ucc.org
Childcare Coordinator: Courtney Hayman childcare@community-ucc.org	Organist: Brian Clark organ@community-ucc.org
Commissioned Minister of Congregational Health: Linda Morgan lindamorgan@sbcglobal.net	Office Manager: Carla Rush info@community-ucc.org

Your Ministry Team Leaders

-Community Building: Peg Wade and Randy Musser	-Usher Coordinator:
-Care Team: Jeff & Tina Stovall	-Sound Coordinator: Roger Wade
-Prayer Shawls: Elena Kasper	-Clerk: Shane Brownfield
-Meal Train: Jennifer Robbennolt	-Moderator: Jon Ebel
-Driver's Ministry: Becky Sheridan and John Osborne	Past Moderator: John Murphy
-Card Ministry: Peg Wade	-Incoming Moderator: Elizabeth Shack
-Healing Music Ministry: Marilou Hinrichs	-UCC Campus Ministry Liaison: Ilsa Kantola
-Health and Wellness Team: Doug Irwin	-Pastoral Relations: Cara Finnegan
-Finance: Roger Wade (treasurer), David Willcox (financial secretary)	-Personnel Committee: Anna Barnes
-Mission: Nancy Smith and Ramona Oswald	-Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP): Grant Robbennolt and Kyle Mahannah
-Identity: Keri Evans and (pending)	-Buildings & Grounds: Tom Ward and Matthew Hart
-Children & Family: Julie McClure and (pending)	-Contracts & Insurance: Andrew McClure
-Worship: Chase Skye and Susan Pawlicki	

United Church Foundation (UCC Campus Ministry)

Director of Campus Ministry: Nate Brantingham (nate@ucccampusministry.org)

<http://community-ucc.org/campus-ministry/>

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Community United Church of Christ

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October 18, 2020

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Living Messages
Children's Sabbath
Laity Sunday

Abigail Henderson, formerly pastor at Northfield United Church of Christ in Northfield, Minnesota learned that not just a good feeling, but actual data supported a queer/trans youth group (CYAN) she had started.

She reports that “a coalition of non-profits in the town received a grant to track and work to improve health and well-being outcomes for children and youth in the community. One of the people connected to that grant contacted me... ‘I wanted to share some data with you that we are finally getting from the Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) that all 5-12th graders took last year... As I am sure you recall the 2016 numbers were quite concerning; 25% of LGB youth reported a Positive Identity and Outlook score that was deemed to meet the threshold to be equipped for learning as compared to 60% of all youth. For the Social Competence numbers, they were 55% for LGB youth as compared to 74% for all youth.

Well - I am so happy to be able to tell you that the numbers for LGB identifying youth have seen a significant increase! While still below the numbers for all youth they are the only group where we are seeing growth. In 2019 the Positive Identity and Outlook had increased to 43% for LGB youth as compared to 51% for all youth (an 8% difference in 2019 vs 35% in 2016) and the Social Competence number had increased to 63% for LGB youth as compared to 70% for all youth (a 7% difference in 2019 vs a 19% difference in 2016). Although I wish we didn't see any difference in numbers (and that we saw higher numbers overall), I believe this growth has been remarkable and is noteworthy! I also believe that this growth is because of you, Abby. You started something absolutely remarkable with CYAN that has made, and continues to make, a huge difference in the lives of so many. Thank you. Thank you for being a champion for youth when they needed it most, for changing the conversation in our community, and for being an authentic role model. You have left an incredible mark and I hope that you know that you changed lives. I am so glad that CYAN has been able to continue on the strong foundation that you built - it is needed in our community and for our youth.”

All those of you who pour heart and soul into work with youth without knowing the outcome, take heart! Here's actual data to show that the work you're doing really matters.



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