



WELCOME!

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE, UCC ANNUAL CELEBRATION

WORSHIP, JULY, 2020

Hosted by the Southeastern Association

WELCOME Brad Carroll, Executive Director of La Foret

INVOCATION Rev. Clare Twomey, Moderator Southeastern Association; Lead Pastor Vista Grande, UCC

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted, Janet Morley) Rev. Darlene Avery, Pastor Church in the Wildwood

One: Holy one, we gather this day as Your Beloved community. We gather as your people in this space made sacred by our desire to live as you have called us to live.

Many: Space that transcends distance and means but is transformed into Holy space by our gathering in your name.

One: Holy One, you have called your prophets throughout the ages to persist in proclamation in the face of callousness, and to be resilient in faith confronting stupidity.

Many: We pray for those who have refused to be silent before injustice; those who have been repeatedly turned away but are not discouraged;

One: We pray for those whose outrageous faith has caused the mighty to tremble; those whose stubborn humour gives their siblings heart.

Many: We pray for those whose efforts in the cause of justice have left them damaged or bitter;

One: We pray for those who are repudiated for those whom they struggle; who have lost all hope of remedy, and whose voices are not heard.

Many: We pray for those who have the power to do good and will not; who attend to no voice but their own;

One: Who dismiss the causes of oppression, and ignore the plight and voice of the oppressed.

Many: Beloved, may we be the ones who stay in the fray, whose voices rise above the voices of oppressors, who stand firm in Your light and love. May we strive with every breadth to be Your holy presence in a world so desperate to know You are always here.

Amen

OPENING SONG *Amazing Grace* (arrng Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio)
(Vista Grande Choir: David Hudson, Carol Burbank, Jan Morgan, Erin and Matt
Spencer, Nancy Morlock Hollins)

READING *Romans 8:26-29*
Kayan Cross, Moderator Vista Grande

MOMENT OF LAMENT
Rev. Sarah Linn, Pastor Creede Community Church

SONG OF MEDITATION *Just such a time as Now* *Amanda Udis-Kessler*
Filled with fear, laden with sadness: chaos and madness grow around us
Still we're here, risking and daring, endlessly caring. Hope has found us.
Peace surrounds us.

*We were called for just such a time as this. For this time, we were made.
We give all our love and compassion: Trust into action, even afraid.
We were called for just such a time as this and we make this vow:
We'll bring all our gifts to the table, do what we're able somehow
For we were called for just such a time as now.*

*Touched by grief, stressed and exhausted, counting the losses. Sorrow hounds us.
Still, again, we are invited, gently reminded: faith has found us. Grace astounds us.*

*We were called for just such a time as this. For this time, we were made.
We give all our love and compassion: Trust into action, even afraid.
We were called for just such a time as this and we make this vow:
We'll bring all our gifts to the table, do what we're able somehow
For we were called for just such a time as now.*

INTERLUDE: Prayer Chain

*Jeff Chapman—Moderator CWW; Sandy Taylor Moderator Christ Church UCC, Pueblo;
Cindy Halsey Moderator Black Forest UCC , Jen and Weller Dorf Moderator and son,
Broadmoor Community Church; Merilee Daugherty, Moderator Buena Vista.*

Final Refrain:

We were called for just such a time as this. For this time, we were made.

We give all our love and compassion: Trust into action, even afraid.

We were called for just such a time as this and we make this vow:

We'll bring all our gifts to the table, do what we're able somehow

For we were called for just such a time as now.

We were called for just such a time as now

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

Pastor Mary Williams, Pastor First Congregational Church, Pueblo

SERMON

Dr. Susan Thistlethwaite

PASTORAL PRAYER

Paul Carpenter, Moderator UCC Parker Hilltop

SONG RESPONSE

Amahoro

Tracy Howe Wispelwey

(“Amahoro” is a word from the Kirundi language, spoken in Burundi as well as adjacent parts of Tanzania, Uganda and the D.R. Congo. It is a common greeting meaning “peace” and is used in this song as a prayer and blessing: “Let peace flow between us”)

Chorus: Amahoro, Amahoro (repeated several times)

Verse 1: Love, love, love show us the way.. (repeat)

Verse 2: Peace, peace, peace show us the way..

Verse 3: Hope, hope, hope show us the way...

***CALL FOR OFFERING** (see back page)

****COMMUNION**

Rev Erin Gilmore, Associate Conference Minister and Rev. Sue Artt, Conference Minister

CLOSING SONG

I Choose You

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Verse 1: I choose you to follow my way, to follow my way
I choose you to grow and to change, to grow and to change

Refrain: I choose you to be my love. Be my love in the world
I choose you to be my love. Be my love in the world

Verse 2: I choose you to live as a friend, to live as a friend
I choose you to try it again, to try it again

Verse 3: I choose you to live as a gift, to live as a gift
I choose you to go and bear fruit, to go and bear fruit

BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

Rev. Logan Bennett, Director of Transformational Programming, La Foret

*Today's offering will be divided between the following organizations. You can still donate by sending a check to RMC P.O. Box 2616, Evergreen CO 80437-2616. Please be sure to write **Annual Celebration worship offering** in the memo line,

*La Foret

*RMC Racial Justice

*Colorado Covid Relief Fund (this is the charity endorsed by Gov. Polis)

<https://secure.donationpay.org/milehighunitedway/colorado-covid-relief-fund.php>

**United Ways of Utah COVID-19 Community Response Fund*

<https://app.mobilecause.com/e/LF4YqA?vid=74gwm>

**Wyoming Community Foundation Covid-19 Fund : <https://wycf.org/covid19/>*

The COVID-19 Fund provides rapid financial support to frontline nonprofits working to offset the impacts of the virus in their communities.

*** Please have elements available for communion.*

SONG PERMISSION:

Amazing grace—One License;

*Just Such a Time as This—used with permission of composer Amanda Udis-Kessler***

Amahoro & I Choose You –license through Convergence Music Project

***Amanda Udis-Kessler is a hymn writer, songwriter, composer, and writer. Her hymns, responsive readings, and selected sermons have been published in seven hymnals and on the ProgressiveChristianity.org and Unitarian Universalist Association WorshipWeb websites. Amanda is the featured hymn writer/composer for the Fall 2020 through Spring 2021 issues of the UCC Musicians' Association journal *Worship, Music, & Ministry*. She serves informally as composer-in-residence at Vista Grande Community Church UCC in Colorado Springs, where she is a Covenantal Partner. Amanda is a member of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, the United Church of Christ Musicians' Association, and the Association of Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries. Find Amanda's hymns, songs, and worship music at queersacredmusic.com and every soulmusic.com; contact Amanda at amanda@amandaudiskessler.com.*

Thank you to all who participated in this worship service. Your thoughtful contributions created this sacred celebration!!!!

A very special Thank-you to Bryan Hurst of Newline Technical Innovations (newlinetechnicalinnovations.com) for his patience, brilliant direction and artistic touches! His talent is what made this a masterpiece!!