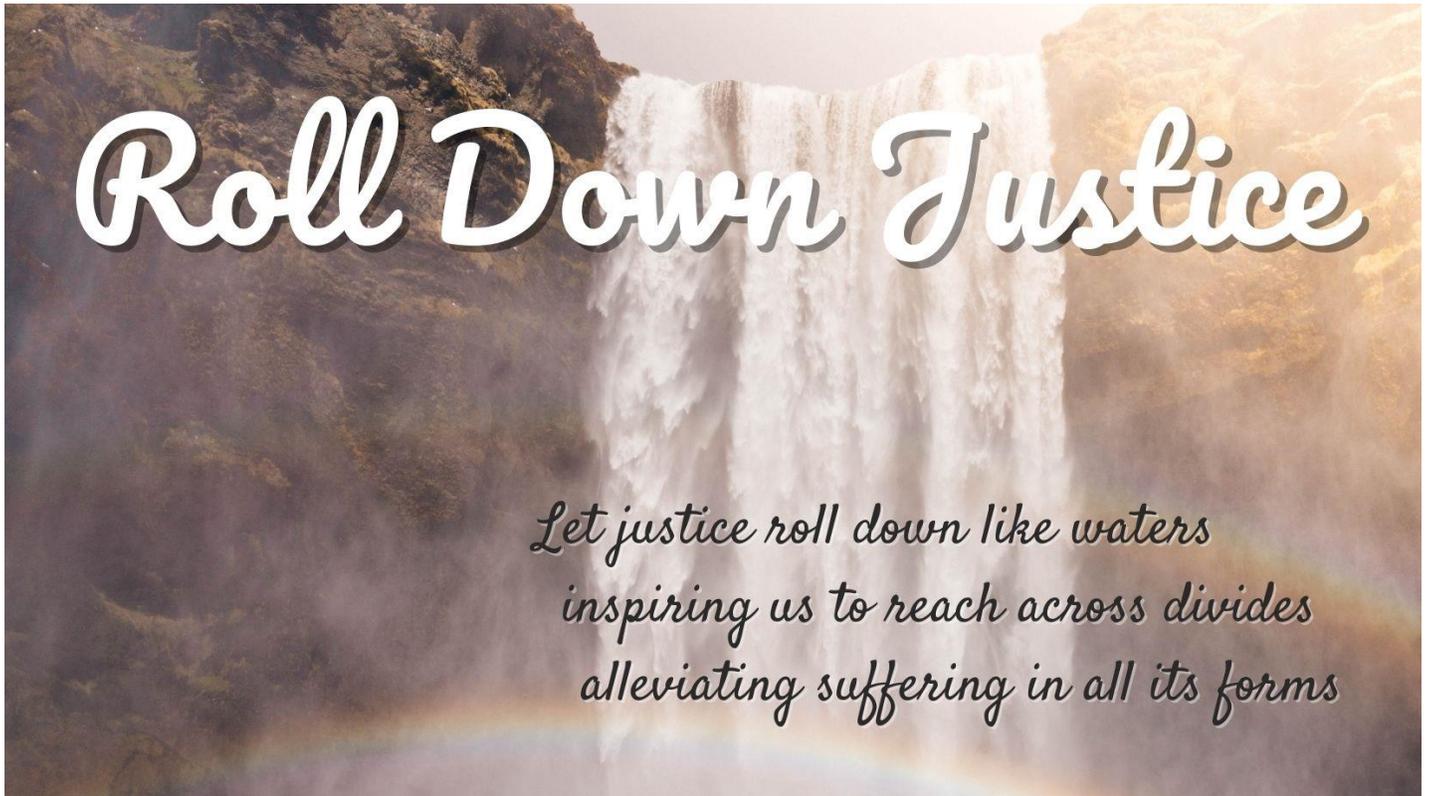


Waterville United Church of Christ
First Congregational Church
May 15, 2022
9:30 AM



*I hate, I reject your festivals; I don't enjoy your joyous assemblies.
If you bring me your entirely burned offerings and gifts of food— I won't be pleased;
I won't even look at your offerings of well-fed animals.
Take away the noise of your songs; I won't listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*

- Amos 5: 21-24 (CEB)

This series is inspired by Amos, a prophet whose message is that God calls us to let "justice roll down like waters." Worship without justice is not acceptable, rather our songs must move us to action on behalf of the oppressed. Through the powerful music of Mark Miller and the remembrance of our rituals of baptism, this series will offer us reflection and renewed inspiration to let our voices be tuned to the heart of the Gospel—proclaiming God's love for all people. What prejudices are we challenged to "give up," and further, how are we willing to give of ourselves for the sake of the world?

WE GATHER

Words of Greeting

Mission Statement

Seeking to walk in the Way of Jesus, we are an Open and Affirming church, faithfully using who we are and what we have to serve those on the margins of our community. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Music for Gathering

Open My Eyes by Terry Osman

The Call

Opening Hymn

God Loved the World NCH 208

WE PROCLAIM

Come as a Child

A WORD FOR HUMANITY

In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.

*In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love. I choose love.*

In the midst of war, I choose peace.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.

*In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace. I choose peace.*

Scripture

Matthew 9:1-8 (The Inclusive Bible)

Jesus got back into the boat, crossed the lake and returned to his own town. Then some people appeared, bringing a person who was paralyzed, stretched out on a pallet. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed person, "Courage, my child, your sins are forgiven." At that, some of the religious scholars said to themselves, "This is blasphemy!" Jesus was aware of their thoughts and said, "Why do you harbor evil thoughts? Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'stand up and walk'? But to prove to you that the Chosen One has authority on earth to forgive sins—" Jesus then

turned to the paralyzed person—"Stand up! Take up your mat, and go home." With that, the afflicted one got up and went home. The crowd was filled with awe when they saw this, and they praised God for giving such authority to mortals.

*When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to higher ground, I will rise. I will rise.*

Prayer Poem

Rock of Ages by Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling

Rock of Ages

When there is no other place of refuge,
when violence awaits every move
and evil lurks in the shadowy places,
there is yet a hiding place in you.

As forces conspire to press in
from the east and the west,
the north and the south,
your guiding presence leads us
to shelter in the quiet center.
The weary find rest in your being;
the distraught a source of renewed hope.
Those who are about to succumb
gain fresh strength in your sheltering hand.

The storm passes.
The winds cease.
Evil flees.
Darkness vanishes.

And those whom you have covered
will rise with the dawn.
And those whom you have covered
will triumphantly rise. Amen.

*In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love. I choose love.*

Sermon

*When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to higher ground, I will rise. I will rise.*

Invitation to Prayer

*Roll down! Roll down, justice!
Roll like an ever-flowing stream.
Roll down! Roll down, justice!
Roll like an ever-flowing stream,
flowing stream, roll down!*

Joys & Concerns

Prayer of our Savior

(say the one that is in your heart)

A Traditional Version

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

A Contemporary Version

Our Creator in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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. Do not lead us into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

WE RESPOND

Offering

During this season, we will be contributing to the waters of justice each week by writing words on strips of cloth that will be added to our ever-flowing stream. As we take our offering today, I invite you to write either the name of someone with whom you desire reconciliation or simply write the word "forgiveness."

The Word in Music

The General by Dispatch

Prayer of Dedication

For the gift and possibility of reconciliation and forgiveness,
we give thanks.
For the way in which these offerings can help us choose love,
we give thanks.
For the gift of this community bound and working together,
we give thanks.

Creation Care Moment

Announcements

Closing Hymn

Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts NCH 589

Benediction

Postlude

Abide With Me arr. Jina Park by William Monk

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Ian R. Lynch - Pastor
David Dean – Soloist/Pianist
Jackie Kulik - Liturgist
Bill Lee – Deacon of the Week

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"Roll Down Justice" and "I Choose Love" by Mark Miller. Used with permission.

Coffee Hour

Beginning today we will have coffee hour outside after worship once a month.

10:00 a.m. Daily Prayer Check in password

The safest and most effective way to connect to a Zoom meeting is to manually enter the Meeting ID, 914 158 897 - and then the password - 693668

If you want to try just clicking on this link with the password embedded, it should also work:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/914158897?pwd=VkEwUG5rbEdwaFB3NGJyU3NhV2hGUT09>

And you can always call in: 1 929 205 6099 US

And enter the Meeting ID: 914 158 897 Password: 693668

Our Church Life: This Coming Week May 15, 2022

Today, May	15	9:30 a.m. Worship Service in-person and on Zoom and You Tube
Monday	16	Office Closed 10:00 a.m. Daily prayer/check-in time on Zoom 11:30 a.m. Stone Soup Café in Winslow
Tuesday	17	Office Closed 10:00 a.m. Daily prayer/check-in time on Zoom
Wednesday	18	9:00 a.m. Essentials Closet 10:00 a.m. Daily prayer/check-in time on Zoom
Thursday	19	10:00 a.m. Daily prayer/check-in-time on Zoom 11:30 a.m. Stone Soup Café in Winslow 5:00 p.m. Essentials Closet 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Conversation
Friday	20	9:00 a.m. Essentials Closet 10:00 a.m. Daily prayer/check-in-time on Zoom 11:30 a.m. Stone Soup Café in Winslow
Saturday	21	10:00 a.m. Daily prayer/check-in-time
Sunday	22	9:30 a.m. Worship Service in-person and on Zoom and You Tube

CHURCH STAFF and OFFICERS

Sally Melcher-McKeagney, R.N. - Faith Community Nurse

Rev. Maureen Ausbrook - Starfish Village Ministry

Pete & Lora Downing - Essentials Closet

Nancy Flynn - Administrative Assistant

Bill Lee - Diaconate Chair

Carl Daiker - Treasurer

Jackie Dalton - Assistant Treasurer

Mike Seavey - Financial Secretary

Herb Oliver - Moderator

Chet Manuel - Vice-Moderator

Mary Lou Ogden - Clerk

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