

SOJOURNERS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“A safe place to begin. A safe place to begin again.”



Confirmation 2021



Confirmation Sunday

May 30, 2021

10:00 a.m.

“We are a community of faith called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to walk in the way of Jesus, by including all peoples in all walks and ways of life, in our life of worship and celebration, nurture and growth, love and service.”

~ Covenant of Sojourners Congregation

Gathering Music **Wherever Love Is** *Written by Bryan C. Sirchio*

Used with permission of the composer

Wherever love is, God is there, too.
God is in me, 'cause I love you!
Wherever love is, God is there, too.
God is wherever love is!

Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements
Introduction of Confirmation Class & Mentors

Call to Worship

Erin Wallace

One: Many voices are speaking to us today in the movie theaters,
on the concert stages, on the television.

All: **Today, God, we choose to listen to Your voice,
to respond to Your desires, to follow Your highest path for us.**

Many voices are speaking to us today
in our homes, in our friendships, and in our community.

**Today, God, we choose to listen to Your voice,
to respond to Your desires, to follow Your highest path for us.**

Many voices are speaking to us today, through celebrities, commercials
and through media.

**Today, God, we choose to listen to Your voice,
to respond to Your desires, to follow Your highest path for us.**

As many voices ring in our ears, we say that we choose to listen for Your voice,
to do what pleases you, and to stay true to the path
You have lovingly set before us.

**Strengthen each of us to choose the high road,
to live up to the greatness you placed within us,
and to honor You in all our ways.**

God, we will listen for Your voice. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Phin Green-Marshall

Generous Creator, Source of all life, you have given us all we need.

Let us know you, within and among us this hour. Feed us from the bread of life that
sustains us daily. Heal our spirits with a balm of peace for all brokenness.

Shelter us in the sanctuary of your love. Fill the inner well that so often runs dry in us,
that we may be renewed springs of hope for all the world. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Tina Griffin

God of all the Earth, all beings, all time, all space, all love, all mercy, we confess that
we are tempted by the lures of a world that sells passing happiness in place of true joy.
We confess that we are fearful of the vulnerability of oneness with new people and
with you. We confess that we settle for our small, but safe comfort zones over the
vision of the thriving global family you created us to be.

Words of Assurance

The God of all has mercy for all! We embrace your freedom to grow in trust and faith in the One who loved us first.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Rachel Baum

We are children of God, called to share with the world the many works of our Creator.

This is the time the children usually collect donations of food for the food bank from the congregation. The Food Bank and other organizations still need your donations, perhaps even more now than previously. It may be easier right now to contribute financially to the [Blue Ridge Area Food Bank](#).

This is our opportunity to give to the family that nurtures us in new growth. We invite you to visit [our webpage](#) and click on the **“Donate or Pledge Now”** tab, to present your gifts.

Time with Children

Phin Green-Marshall

Contemporary Reading: Blessing The Way by Jan Richardson

Sofia Hirano

With every step you take, this blessing rises up to meet you. It has been waiting long ages for you. Look close and you can see the layers of it, how it has been fashioned by those who walked this road before you, how it has been created of nothing but their determination and their dreaming, how it has taken its form from an ancient hope that drew them forward and made a way for them when no way could be seen.

Look closer and you will see this blessing is not finished, that you are part of the path it is preparing, that you are how this blessing means to be a voice within the wilderness and a welcome for the way.

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 139:7-12 *New International Version*

Susan Scofield

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,”

¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

Liturgist: *This is the Word of God, for the People of God!*

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

“Beyond Belief”

Erin Wallace

Music by Gary Rand, Lyrics by Leonora Rand.

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Reflection on Confirmation Journey

Kathy Doby

Statements of Faith by our Confirmation Class

Mentor Introduction of Erin	<i>Tina Griffin</i>
Statement of Faith	<i>Erin Wallace</i>
Mentor Introduction of Sofia	<i>Rachel Baum</i>
Statement of Faith	<i>Sofia Hirano</i>
Mentor Introduction of Phin	<i>Susan Scofield</i>
Statement of Faith	<i>Phin Green-Marshall</i>

Rite of Confirmation

Invitation & Opening Prayer

Susan Scofield

Blessing / Questions for the Candidates

Rev. Karen Mann

- L: Confirmands, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?
- C: *I do*
- L: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to walk in the ways of Jesus, to include all peoples in all walks and ways of life, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?
- C: *I promise with the help of God.*
- L: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in the world?
- C: *I promise with the help of God.*
- L: Please kneel and you and I will pray together:
*O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ,
I give myself to you as your own,
to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen*

Prayers on Behalf of the Congregation

Kathy Doby

We give thanks for the faith God has worked within you. We welcome you right where you are on your faith journey with our love, acceptance, and respect. We pledge to work together as a community of faith to provide opportunities for worship, study, fellowship, celebration, and service. We promise to give spiritual and emotional care and support in times of need; and to be faithful as fellow stewards of God's grace. Together we will work for peace and social, economic, and ecological justice and strive to bring about the world that we believe that God intends.

Act of Confirmation with the Laying on of Hands

Tina Griffin / Susan Scofield

Parents are invited to lay hands on their child and pray and the congregation is invited to put their hands up onto their screen of our Confirmand and family.

- L: The Holy Spirit be upon you, Child of God, disciple of Christ, and member of the Church.
- L: Let us, the members of Sojourners United Church of Christ, Charlottesville, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.
- All: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and work of the church together. May we continue to grow together in God's love and wisdom.**

Prayer of Confirmation and Share First Communion

Pastor Morgan

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Karen Mann

It is more important than ever to hold one another in prayer. If you are participating in this service at-home, we invite you to light a candle and remember your fellow Sojourners in prayer. If you are watching live from home, we invite you to leave a comment, on the "Chat" screen, with your joys or concerns, now. Please remember that this is a PUBLIC forum and can be seen by anyone.

Closing Song

This Little Light of Mine

Written by Harry Dixon Loes, c.1920

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine...
Won't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine...
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...

Benediction

Confirmation Class

As you depart from this place, go with courage and go with trust that the God who created you is also the One who will sustain you and the One who will show you the way. Until we meet again, may you be filled with curiosity, wonder, and openness to God's tender guidance. **Amen.**

Contact Us:

Interim Pastor: Dr. Marvin L. Morgan
mlmorg@bellsouth.net

Faith Formation Director: Kathy Doby
kathy@sojourners-ucc.org

Church Administrator: Lance Allen
churchoffice@sojourners-ucc.org

Church Office: 434-977-1481
www.sojourners-ucc.org