

**GROWING IN
FRIENDSHIP**

July 26, 2020

10:00 a.m.

**Union Church in Waban
Summer Services**



PRELUDE

“Abba Father”

*Trey McLaughling
arr. Daon Drisdorn*

CALL TO WORSHIP

“I Will Never Be The Same Again”

Hillsong

I will never be the same again.
I can never return I've closed the door
I will walk the path I'll run the race
And I will never be the same again

There are higher heights there are deeper seas
Whatever you need to do, lord do in me
The glory of God fills my life
And I will Never be the same again

I will never be the same again.
I can never return I've closed the door
I will walk the path I'll run the race
And I will never be the same again

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Stacy Swain

OPENING HYMN

“I Am A Friend of God”

Israel Houghton

Who am I that You are mindful of me
That You hear me when I call
Is it true that You are thinking of me
How You love me it's amazing

(Chorus)

I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
He calls me friend

God Almighty, Lord of Glory
You have called me friend

(Repeat Chorus)

He calls me friend
He calls me friend...

PRAYER FOR GOD’S GRACE

Rev. Stacy Swain

Creator, Redeemer, Sustaining God. We ask your grace be upon us this day. We want to love you with our whole hearts and love our neighbors as ourselves, but sometimes find it hard to do so.

So shine the light of your love into our lives, we pray. Guide us and renew us. Help us to more fully experience your grace so that we may be beacons of hope, sources of comfort, fonts of inspiration, and ambassadors of your love, in this beautiful but wounded world. We pray all of this in the name of Love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

***THE GREETING OF PEACE**

Leader: May God’s Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Arlyne Grant

John 15 12-17, 26 (NRSV)

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

Luke 5:17-26 (NRSV)

One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven you.” Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, “Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the one who was paralyzed—“I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home.” Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen strange things today.”

SERMON

The Intrusive Power of Friendship

Nathan Patti

REFLECTING TOGETHER

HYMN

“ I Need You To Survive”

Hezekiah Walker

I need you, you need me;
we're all a part of God's body.
Stand with me, agree with me;
We're all a part of God's body.

Chorus:

It is His will that every need be supplied;
you are important to me,
I need you to survive.
You are important to me,
I need you to survive.

I pray for you, you pray for me;
I love you, I need you to survive.
I won't harm you with word from my mouth;
I love you, I need you to survive. (*Chorus*)

A TIME OF PRAYER

Rev. Stacy Swain

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And with thy spirit.

One: Let us begin our prayer in silence.

Prayers of the People

THE LORD'S PRAYER (TRESPASSES)

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,
The power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

“I Would Be True”

#492 v. 2 and 3

SERVICE OF SHARING

Rev. Stacy Swain

OFFERTORY

“Bread From My Table”

Preson Phillips

***DOXOLOGY (Together)**

All people who on Earth do dwell, sing out to God with cheerful voice,
serve God with mirth, whose praise you tell, whose presence calls you to rejoice. Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Together)**

**Lord, richly bless and multiply these offerings of gratitude, so that all
whose lives they touch may know the grace and power of your love. Amen.**

SHARING IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY

Rev. Stacy Swain

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Guide My Feet”

#497

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.

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.

BENEDICTION

Nathan Patti