

October 8, 2023

The First Congregational Church of Verona

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, October 15 – Marjorie Royle

Sunday, October 22 – TBD

Sunday, Oct. 29, Edd Sewell

Sunday, Nov. 7 – All Saints Day, Rev. Maren Tirabassi, with Communion

PRELUDE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Peace be with you.

Unison: And also with you.

HYMN –God of Change and Glory

**God of change and glory, God of time and space,
When we fear the future, Give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.**

Refrain

***Many gifts, one Spirit, One love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, From diversity we praise
One Giver, one Lord, One Spirit, one Word
Known in many ways, hallowing our days.
For the Giver, for the gifts, Praise, praise, praise!***

**God of many colors, God of many signs,
You have made us different, Blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear.**

Refrain

**Freshness of the morning, Newness of each night,
You are still creating Endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part, Many gifts from one great heart.**

Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP

Walt Whitman

Leader: "From this hour I ordain myself loos'd of limits and imaginary lines,
Going where I list, my own master total and absolute, Listening to others,
considering well what they say, Pausing, searching, receiving, contemplating,
Gently but with undeniable will, divesting myself of the holds that would hold
me."

INTROIT

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: As the water is soft and flexible, so too, may I be soft and flexible.
May I find the flexibility and strength of the flowing river in me. Remind me
that the soft dissolves the hard and rigid. May I go with the flow so that the
rough edges become soft yielding peace of mind and purpose of action.

ANTHEM – Living in the Moment

Jason Mraz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahqx4SuBD84>

PSALM: Psalm 46: 1-7a

SERMON – Going with the Flow

Jacob Baccus

MEDITATIVE RESPONSE

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer,

Based on the Lord's Prayer by Parker Palmer

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true
name. We pray for your reign of peace to come, We pray that
your good will be done, Let heaven and earth become one. Give
us this day the bread we need, Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, From each one to
each one. Lead us to holy innocence Beyond the evil of our days
— Come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power
and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One.
Choral Amen**

HYMN – Secret O’ Life

James Taylor

**The secret of life is enjoying the passage of time
Any fool can do it. There ain't nothing to it
Nobody knows how we got to the top of the hill
But since we're on our way down we might as well enjoy the ride**

**The secret of love is in opening up your heart
It's okay to feel afraid but don't let that stand in your way
Because anyone knows that love is the only road
And since we're only here for a while might as well show some style**

**Give us a smile. Isn't it a lovely ride?
Sliding down, gliding down Try not to try too hard
It's just a lovely ride**

**Now the thing about time is that time isn't really real
It's just your point of view How does it feel for you?
Einstein said he could never understand it all
Planets a-spinning through space, the smile upon your face,
Welcome to the human race.**

**Some kind of lovely ride
I'll be sliding down, I'll be gliding down
Try not to try too hard, it's just a lovely ride**

**Isn't it a lovely ride? See me sliding down, gliding down
Try not to try too hard It's just a lovely ride**

The secret of life is enjoying the passage of time

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The flowers on the communion table this morning were donated by Janet Lyons in memory of Bill Richmond, Pam DiPietro's good friend.