

*First***CHURCH**  
First United Methodist Church of Boulder

1421 Spruce Street Boulder, CO 80302

303.442.3770

[www.fumcboulder.org](http://www.fumcboulder.org)

10:30 am Worship

Sunday, September 13, 2020

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**WORDS FOR MEDITATION**

*“Mysteries, Yes.”*

by Mary Oliver

*Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous  
to be understood.*

*How grass can be nourishing in the  
mouths of the lambs.*

*How rivers and stones are forever  
in allegiance with gravity*

*while we ourselves dream of rising.*

*How two hands touch and the bonds  
will never be broken.*

*How people come, from delight or the  
scars of damage,  
to the comfort of a poem.*

*Let me keep my distance, always, from those  
who think they have the answers.*

*Let me keep company always with those who say  
“Look!” and laugh in astonishment,  
and bow their heads.*

**PRELUDE**

“God Be With You”

Jordan Ortman, piano

William G. Timer (1833-1896)

Arr. Heather Sorenson

## THE CALL

Rev. Michael Mather

## THE PEACE

## THE SCRIPTURE READING

Lenna Kottke

Matthew 18:21-22

*Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the community sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"*

*Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."*

## LESSONS FROM THE CONTEMPORARY CHURCH

Eleanor Malmberg  
Connie Takamine

Matthew 18:23-35

*For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.*

*So the servant fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'*

*And out of pity for him, the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.*

*But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.'*

*Then his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'*

*But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.*

*When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.*

*Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.*

*So my God will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your sibling from your heart.”*

**SERMON**    *School of the Spirit: God Laughs & Plays*    Rev. Michael Mather

**PRAYERS**    Stephanie Moffitt

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Mother and Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names. 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.**

**REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM**

**Blessing the Water**

Holy Spirit  
you moved over the waters  
at the dawn of creation

**Bless this water**

Jesus Christ  
our teacher and friend  
calling us to follow you

**Bless this water**

God our maker,  
thank you for the gift of life  
the chance to grow in your love

**Bless this water**

## **Remembering Our Baptism**

For the faith and family in which we live and move and for which we are daily gaining a deeper understanding,

**Renew our commitment, O God.**

To reject what is sinful and to ever more embrace the freedom of new life that Christ reveals to the world.

**Renew our courage, O God.**

To follow Jesus

**Renew our trust, O God.**

To commit to discipleship by resisting those forces that defile and demean your creation, showing compassion and justice, and making the ministry and life of Christ visible to us,

**Renew our strength, O God.**

To be faithful members of your beloved community in learning, service, and celebration,

**Renew our bonds, O God.**

Pastor: And now, we invite you to share out loud something you have learned about yourself, about God, or about someone in our community. And we ask you to name these learned things as a celebration of our connection to one another.

**Congregation: (*Say these things out loud.*)**

Together we celebrate all we have learned from one another and from God.

**Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Celene Lillie

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Michael Mather

**POSTLUDE**

“Toccatà in F, BuxWV 157” Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)  
Gerald Holbrook, organ

***This week, as we all live into the things around us,  
let's remember to offer peace to one another.***

**THANK YOU** to all who contributed their time and talents to today's service:

Lenna Kottke  
Eleanor Malmberg  
Connie Takamine

***After worship, join us on Zoom for Coffee Hour!***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5291240473>

**Join Us for Our Service on September 20, 2020**

10:30 am MDT on our Website or on Facebook

Speaker: Michael Mather

**September Special Offering Benefits Reconciling Ministry,  
BCAP, and Out Boulder County**

Reconciling Ministry is a very important part of FUMC and who we are as a church. The month of September is a time to help foster not only the Reconciling Ministry, but also the reconciling mission of this church. Along with our Reconciling Ministry, we partner with BCAP (Boulder County AIDS Project) and Out Boulder County. Your special offering this month will help provide food for the BCAP pantry, as well as help them continue their mission to bring awareness, help, and healing to those living with AIDS. Giving will also help contribute to the many important services provided by Out Boulder County, as well as foster their mission of educating and advocating for Boulder's LGBTQ community. Your support will also help our Reconciling Ministry continue to grow and develop through educational opportunities and finding new ways to connect and build our community. To contribute, please make your check payable to First United Methodist Church, and write "September special offering" in the memo line. You can mail your check to the church at 1421 Spruce Street, Boulder, CO 80302. If you prefer to give online through our website, click on the green "Give" tab in the upper right corner of the homepage, click the "Donate Now" button, and type in the amount you'd like to give on the line for "September Mission Offering." Thank you for your generous support of our ministry and mission!

### **Giving to FUMC During the Pandemic**

Just a reminder that FUMC can still receive your offering gifts to support God's work in the world. Mail is still being checked several times each week in the church office, so you can mail checks, made payable to First United Methodist Church, to 1421 Spruce Street, Boulder, CO 80302. You can also give online via our website: <https://funcboulder.org/about/donating/>. Thank you.