



This Weekend In Worship

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I am concerned about all the conspiracy theories floating around and how quickly and easily they are believed. Ann Applebaum wrote a book titled, “The Seductive Lure of Authoritarianism.” This quote caught my attention.

“The emotional appeal of a conspiracy theory is in its simplicity.

It explains away complex phenomena, accounts for chance and accidents, offers the believer the satisfying sense of having special, privileged access to the truth. For those who become the one party states’ gatekeepers, the repetition of these conspiracy theories also bring another reward – power.” (p. 45).

Is it just “extremists” who are falling under the power of conspiracy theories?

This week we saw the Inauguration of our new President and Vice President. They called for the American people to come together, to unite to take on the tough challenges facing us. How hopeful and optimistic are you that we can do this? How are you thinking about the fact that roughly one-half of the country voted differently than you did? What do you make of the fact that we, as Americans, see the world so differently? We disagree not just on opinions or best techniques but also about basic facts. What is your strategy for moving forward? Is this a time to fight? Is this a time to reconcile?

This week in worship, we continue to think about what Jesus intends for us as he teaches us to love our neighbors. We will focus specifically on loving those who we think of as our enemies. I look forward to hearing your thoughts, as you think about what God is calling you to do.

Pastor Kent

First United Methodist Church
Virtual worship service

January 23rd, 5 pm
January 24th, 9:30 am

Welcome &
Announcements

Prelude

"Make Me a Channel
of Your Peace"

Arr. Hayes

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

"For the Healing of
the Nations"

#428

Opening Prayer

Chorus

"Where Children
Belong"

#2233

Children's Moment

Scripture

1 John 4:7

The Word Through
Music

"Shalom"

Forrest

Scripture

Luke 6:27, 32-36

Sermon

How Can I Love My
Enemies?

Offering

Pastoral Prayer &
Lord's Prayer

Hymn of Commitment

"Let There Be Peace
on Earth"

#431

Blessing & Sending
Forth

Postlude

"Fugue"

Christian Heinrich
Rinck