

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2019

8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

But if the world is watching, we might as well tell the truth. And the truth is, the church doesn't offer a cure. It doesn't offer a quick fix. The church offers the messy, inconvenient, gut-wrenching, never-ending work of healing and reconciliation. – Rachel Held Evans

The church is God saying: 'I'm throwing a banquet, and all these mismatched, messed-up people are invited. Here, have some wine.' – Rachel Held Evans

**No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome in this
United Church of Christ congregation...**



*Those who feel comfortable standing, please stand.
Underlined items 8:30 a.m. worship.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Pastoral Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship:

One: In the darkest valley . . . at the banquet table;

All: in the hard work of life . . . at moments of ease;

One: in our day-to-day reality . . . at times set aside - like this time, now . . .

All: for worship, for listening, for paying attention;

One: with every step we take . . .

All: goodness and mercy follow us; our cups overflow.

Introit

*Opening Hymn

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

#18

*Prayer of Confession

One: Anger, hatred, anguish blare at us from the media. The shouts of hurt and pain harden our hearts. We cannot bear it, so we turn away. We hide and want the hurt to disappear.

All: When we hear the words of the Psalmist singing about green pastures and still waters, our souls long for this place of peace.

One: We think that it can be found outside ourselves, yet this is a reminder of the peace and hope that your love, Holy God, offers us from within.

All: We know that we will have struggles and hard times, but help us to place our lives in your care, to trust in your comfort and guidance. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your compassionate love. Heal us again, and place us on the right path. Amen.

Words of Assurance

One: Even in the darkest valley, though death's shadow may threaten us, we need not fear, for the Lord is with us. God will comfort and shelter us.

All: No harm will come to us. No one can snatch us out of the Lord's hand. God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

*Praise Response

Spirit of the Living God

#259

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

Children's Message

Children in Kindergarten through 4th grade will leave after the Children's Message for class. Youth in 5th through 7th grade, please meet in your classroom at 10:30 a.m.

Blessing Song

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

#431

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever;
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

Special Music

Ave Verum
Gail Lingenfelter, soprano
Ralph Heimburger, baritone

Karl Jenkins

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Psalm Reading

Psalm 23

OT page 474
Large print page 617

Reader: God is still speaking,
People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Reading

John 10:22-30

NT page 98
Large print page 127

Reader: God is still speaking,
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation

Vicki McGaw

Hymn of Response

Great is Your Faithfulness

#423

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

Naming of those in need of Prayer

Silent Prayer, Prayers of the People

Prayer of Consecration and Prayer of our Savior

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

(Please participate in the Ritual of Friendship using the pad in your pew.)

Offertory

*Doxology (tune 46)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Generous God, all of your works, all that you have done for us, testify to your love. You gave everything to bring us the promise of eternal life. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all that we do and all that we are testify to your amazing care and compassion. In gratitude and love, we offer ourselves to you. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion (8:30 am only)

WE GO OUT WITH GOD'S WORD

*Closing Hymn

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

#252

*Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

Please remain seated and enjoy the Postlude



This bulletin cover is in celebration of Barb Nitzsche's dad,
Ed Wayda's 93rd birthday on May 11th.

UPCOMING INTERPRETER SCHEDULE

The interpreters who serve our hearing impaired ministry will be on hiatus in June, July and August. The decision to do this was based on the reduced budget for this service this year. We will look forward to Lori Palmer and Vince Reddy joining us again in September.

If you have questions, please contact Flo Thwaites, 440-829-1663 or thwaites24@hotmail.com.