

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2019

8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies. – Martin Luther King, Jr.

God does not ask anything of you other than for you to let yourself go and let God be God in you.
– Meister Eckhardt

Resentment is like a glass of poison that a man drinks; then he sits down and waits for his enemy to die. — Nelson Mandela when asked why he was not resentful for his imprisonment

**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 are able, please stand.
Underlined items 8:30 a.m. worship.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Chorale Prelude

Dale Wood

Pastoral Greeting and Announcements

Introit

For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table

Murray
arr. Trenney

For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live,
**and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!**

*Call to Worship

One: Though the storm clouds of doubt and fear threaten to overcome us . . .

All: God leads us into ways of peace.

One: When the darkness of war and the deep pit of anger reach toward us . . .

All: God lifts and carries us through the darkness with hope and light.

One: God of grace and life, be with us today.

All: God of mercy and peace, lead our lives as we gather to worship in your name.

*Opening Hymn

Praise to God

NCH #5

*Prayer of Confession

One: Forgiving and loving God, your grace and mercy are ever-present in our lives; your forgiveness is boundless when we fail to live in Christ-like ways.

All: And yet, we are quick to carry a grudge, to find fault, to assign blame, and to harden our hearts toward others. Set us apart to extend and model the grace you have shown us by offering grace to others.

*Words of Assurance

One: In God's grace, each one of us has received healing mercies. We are now given opportunities to offer forgiveness and redemption to one another.

All: May the peace of Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

*Praise Response

Come to the Table of Grace

see insert

Children's Message

Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade will have class in Room 104, after the children's message and will return to their families for Communion. Childcare will be available for infants through age 4 in the nursery. Youth in 6th - 12th grade will remain in worship.

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.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Epistle Reading

Romans 14:1-12

NT page 152
Large print page 198

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

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

NT page 19
Large print page 24

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

Sermon

Vicki McGaw

Hymn of Response

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

see insert

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

Call to Offering

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

Choir Anthem

In Peace

Arr. Jay Ducharme

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: May the God of compassion be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Children of grace, lift your hearts to God.

All: We bring them to the One who has mercy on us.

One: God's people, join in glad songs of thanksgiving.

All: We lift our voices in praise and hope.

One: God of Life, you shared your peace with us when you gathered and formed us from the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into us. But life with you was not enough for us.

All: Even in our rebellion, you clothe us and provide a way in the world. We are thankful that you continue to seek us, even in our wandering ways.

One: Jesus, you were a vessel of peace in a world that did not welcome you. But you persevered in love in the face of hatred. You taught us that forgiveness is possible even in the midst of extreme suffering.

All: We are thankful that you continue to love us, even in our unrepentant ways.

One: You hold peace within us despite our circumstances. You tend to the deepest parts of our inmost being, nurturing peace so that it may grow. You lead us in paths of righteousness, showing us the way to bear love to the world.

All: When hatred speaks its convincing lies, you show us the truth. We are thankful that you continue to forgive us, even in our careworn ways.

One: Realizing your intentions for us are compassion and grace, we lift glad songs of praise:

All: Living, we seek to follow you; following, we share our lives with others; sharing, we receive unexpected gifts. Blessed is the One who is patient with us. Hosanna in the highest!

Words of Institution

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.

Sharing the Elements

Prayer After Communion

Holy God, the bread and the cup remind us of your goodness and grace. You nourish us in our journey of faith, reminding us that you are always with us. Help us to live out your call to be instruments of peace that we readily share with others. Guide us in our words and actions so that where there is hatred, we sow love. We give you thanks for who you are and the blessing of being called your people. Amen.

WE GO OUT WITH GOD'S WORD

*Closing Hymn

When Peace, Like a River

NCH #438

*Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

Fugue from Organ Sonata no. 2

Felix Mendelssohn

Please remain seated and enjoy the Postlude.