

WORSHIP ORDER - St. John's UCC
First Sunday after Pentecost
Trinity Sunday
May 26, 2024

PRELUDE

"Dawn"

Cyril Jenkins.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ

be with you all.

People: *And also with you.*

Pastor: Let us rise and greet one another with words of peace and remain standing for our song of centering.

We greet one another with signs and words of peace.

*SONG OF CENTERING

"In the Bulb There is a Flower" vs. 1

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

L: We look for help.

P: Where will it come from?

L: Our help will come from the Lord who created the heavens and the earth.

P: Let our hearts rejoice in God's kindness and love!

L: Let us pray

Gracious and glorious Lord, we come, as did Nicodemus, with questions on our hearts and in our lives. We come hoping someone can help us find answers and healing. But we are also hardened with doubts about self, others, and even you. Grant us healing and openness to your spirit that we may be better servants of your Word, your Will, and your Way. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

SONG OF GATHERING

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

NCH#277

Descant

4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Saints a - dore you tru - ly,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though we know but dim - ly,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing we praise your maj - es - ty.
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eyes of hum - an - kind your glo - ry may not see,
 All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim bow be - fore you on - ly,
 You a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are wor - thy,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 From the be - gin - ning, God e - ter - nal - ly.
 Per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

The Liturgist invites the congregation to be seated.

First Reading

Read by Liturgist

Romans 8:12-17

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- Rev. Nathan Dannison

Invitation to Confession

- Rev. Dannison

SILENCE IS OBSERVED

ALL: Many: Loving God, we confess that we try, and yet we falter.

Yet you are steadfast, O God. You do not count our sins but rather multiply your grace and mercy.

With your steadfast love, Creator God, have mercy on us again today.

With your saving love, Risen Savior, have mercy on us today.

With your enlivening love, Holy Spirit, have mercy on us today.

We place in your hands all that we have been and all that we are, in the sure hope of what you will have us become.

To you, O God, be eternal praise and glory.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

One: People of God, be certain of this: your sins are forgiven.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the friendship of the Holy Spirit, will save you from all evil and bring you to victory. Thanks be to God! Amen.

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

Blessing of the Elements

Pastor: God be with you .

Many: And also with you .

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God!

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High!

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray....

Words of Institution

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

This Sunday, Communion will be served by intinction.

Please come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and receive both as you return to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, you will be served at your seat. There are gluten free crackers available on each plate.

COMMUNION HYMN

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

Refrain

You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart with gift of fin-est wheat;

Refrain

come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice,
 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
 4 The mys-tery of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

so when you call your fam - ily, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
 that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav-en-ly food.
 Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
 whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
 to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

to Refrain

to Refrain

CHILDREN'S BLESSING - Rev. Nathan Dannison

Order for Baptism for Henry Jackson Locke

We will need to have a standing wireless microphone for Revs. Locke and Willers to use during the baptism

Invitation for Children to Come Forward and Words of Welcome, Address - Rev. Dannison

Prayer of Baptism at the Font - Rev. Patricia Locke

Affirmation of Faith and Congregation/Children's Assent - Rev. Dannison

Questions of the Candidate and Act of Baptism - Rev. Dannison

Prayer for the Baptized - Rev. Dr. Randy Willers

♪ **Act of Praise** - Pastor Nathan walks Henry down the aisle and back

Act of Blessing - The Members of St. Johns (Becky Tiedt/others give the candle and napkin)

Children's Blessing and ♪ Dismissal

Gospel Lesson

John 3:1-17

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who

descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Sermon: Born Again, and again, and again...

Rev. Nathan Dannison

*SONG OF RESPONSE

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

NCH#276

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Sov - ereign God, we
 2 Hark, the glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,

bow be - fore you; All on earth your scep - ter claim,
 round are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name they hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 Three we name you, While in es - sence tru - ly one,

all the heaven - ly hosts a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heavens with
 and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low; And from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you; So we gath - er

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 joys a - flame: ho - ly, ho - ly is your name.
 set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
 rev - erent - ly to a - dore the mys - ter - y.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pastor*

Pastor: ... We pray to you, our mother, using the words he gave us,
 Saying together,

People: **Our Father, in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING *Pastor*

Ushers will come forward to receive the offering.

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOR

OFFERTORY

Easter Doxology

Praise Je - sus Christ, who rose from death! Praise to the Source of life and
breath! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to the Spir - it, ho - ly
dove, Giv - er of life, of peace, of love. Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is
ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

*CHARGE

Liturgist

Liturgist:

Go out into the world
and trust in the faithfulness of God.
Speak truth. Embody compassion.
Live simply. Love recklessly.
Transform the world through the power of hope.

People:

*We go in peace to love and serve God
in the name of Jesus Christ.*

*SONG OF PARTING

“God of the Ages, Who With Sure Command”

NCH#592

1 God of the a - ges, who with sure com-mand
2 Your pur - pose, just, en - vi - sions mor-tals free;
3 From war's a - larms, from dead-ly pes - ti - lence,
4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on life's toil-some way;

brought forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
God, set our path toward hu - man lib - er - ty.
with stead - fast care be ev - er our de - fense;
lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen-dor through the skies,
Still be our rul - er, guard-ian, guide, and stay—
Your love and faith with - in our hearts in - crease;
With truth and love guide us through er - ror's maze,

our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.
your Word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.
with boun-teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
and we shall give you glo - ry, laud, and praise.

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

*BENEDICTION *Pastor*

POSTLUDE:
“Armed Forces Medley”

Arr. Joel Gary