

WORSHIP ORDER - St. John's UCC
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 14th, 2024

PRELUDE

"Little Litanies of Jesus"

Gabriel Grouvlez

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

"As the Deer" vs. 1

D A Bm Dsus D

As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my

G A7sus A7 D G A7 D A

soul longs af-ter you. You a-lone are my

Bm Dsus D G Asus A7 D

heart's de-sire, and I long to wor-ship you.

Bm Bm/A G D/F# G Bm

You a-lone are my strength, my shield; to you a-lone

Em F#sus F# D A
 may my spir - it yield. You a - lone are my

Bm Dsus D G A7sus A7 D
 heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The first system has a 4/4 time signature. The second system has a 2/4 time signature. Chords are indicated above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The bass staff provides a bass line for the music.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

L: In Jesus Christ, there is a new creation.

**P: Everything old has passed away.
 Everything has become new.**

L: This newness is from God, who has reconciled us through Jesus Christ.

**P: Rejoice and be glad!
 Everything has become new.**

L: Let us pray...

God of steadfast love and mercy,
 remind us once again that in Jesus Christ
 everything has become new.

For far too often, things seem as they have always been:
 old habits die hard, difficult situations linger,
 failures from our past linger.

We look for your promised newness but cannot see it.
 Speak to us again of your new creation.

Open our eyes to its presence in our lives.

Call us forth to claim this newness,
 that we may be healed and made whole. Amen.

SONG OF GATHERING

“O Saints in Splendor Sing” vs 1 and 2

- 1 O saints in splen-dor sing
the praise of God Most High.
Through trib-u-la-tion you have come,
through blood been sanc-ti-fied.
- 2 Robed in bap-tis-mal grace
a-mid the world's de-spair,
Pro-claim the glo-ry of our God
whose love has con-quer-ed fear.

The Liturgist invites the congregation to be seated.

First Reading

Read by Liturgist

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION - Rev. Nathan Dannison

Invitation to Confession - Rev. Dannison

SILENCE IS OBSERVED

ALL: Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

One: In the name of Jesus Christ who brings peace and hope, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice! You are loved! 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

“As We Gather at Your Table” Vs 1 and 2

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

CHILDREN'S BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:14-18

The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Sermon: "Onward, Into the New Creation" - Rev. Nathan Dannison

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Faith of the Martyrs" vs. 1 and 2

1 Faith of the mar - tyrs, liv - ing still in spite of
 2 Mar - tyrs con - fined in pris - ons bleak were still in
 3 Faith of the mar - tyrs! We will love both friend and
 4 Faith of the mar - tyrs! Faith and prayer shall long out -

dun - geon, fire, and sword; O how our hearts beat high with
 heart and con - science free; and no less blessed will be our
 foe in peace or strife; and sow the seeds of hope and
 live sin's ty - ran - ny; and through the truth that comes from

joy, when we re - call their faith's re - ward:
 fate if we, like them, live faith - ful - ly:
 faith by strength - ening word and fear - less life:
 God all hu - man - kind shall then be free:

Refrain

Faith of the mar - tyrs, liv - ing faith! We would be true in life and death.

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

Doxology for Ordinary Time

All crea - tures lift your prais - es high! Praise God in earth and sea and sky;
in one great chor-us, all your days. Cre - a-tor, Christ, and Spi - rit praise. 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

“Forward Through the Ages” vs 1 and 2

1 For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,
 2 Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;
 3 Not a - lone we con - quer, not a - lone we fall;

move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine;
 for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.
 in each loss or tri - umph, lose or tri - umph all.

Gifts in dif - fering mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,
 Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,
 Bound by God's far pur - pose in one liv - ing whole,

man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.
 po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyrs for it died.
 move we on to - geth - er to the shin - ing goal.

Pastor and Moderator

One:As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

People: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us.

Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

POSTLUDE:

“Crown Imperial March”

William Walton/Arr. Herbert Murrill