January 26, 2020

GUIDE FOR WORSHIP

Hearing assistance is available, please see an usher
Please join in responses printed in blue lettering
*All who are able, please stand

Those seated on the aisle, please fill out the welcome sheet on the clipboard in the pew rack, and pass it to the next person. Request: the last person to sign, please put the sheet in plate. Thank you.

Welcome
Prelude

The Call

From the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

We Believe! May it be so!

*Gathering Song

“Woke Up This Morning”

*Gathering Prayer

Creator and creating God, foolish and flawed though we are, we too delight in Jesus, who reveals you to us throughout our days.

As we gather in his name in this house of many praises, may the heavens be opened for us, that we may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love that transforms our common days with a beauty not of our making.

Through the spirit of Christ Jesus we pray.

Amen.
*Congregational Support:*
Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the ones about to be baptized as they live and grow in Christ?

**We promise our love, support, and care.**

“Jesus Loves Me!”

Jesus loves me!
This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

**Scripture Reading**
Matthew 3:4-6, 11-17 (the Voice)

John wore wild clothes made from camel hair with a leather belt around his waist—the clothes of an outcast, a rebel. He ate locusts and wild honey.

[Sometimes when people see John they are reminded of the last time God’s people had wandered in a wilderness—after the exodus from Egypt. John is all about wilderness. He preaches in the wilderness, and he wears clothes just like the prophet Elijah had worn. They think perhaps John is inaugurating a new exodus. Actually, that is a pretty good way to think of it. The Anointed One, whose way John comes to prepare, will call humanity away from comfort and status; he will call his followers to challenge their assumptions and the things they take for granted.]

People from Jerusalem, all of Judea, and indeed from all around the river Jordan came to John. They confessed their sins, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan.

“I ritually cleanse you through baptism as a mark of turning your life around. But someone is coming after me, someone whose sandals I am not fit to carry, someone who is more powerful than I. He will wash you not in water but in fire and with the Holy Spirit. He carries a winnowing fork in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor; he will gather up the good wheat in his barn, and he will burn the chaff with a fire that cannot be put out.”

And then, the One of whom John spoke—the all-powerful Jesus—came to the Jordan from Galilee to be washed by John. At first, John protested.

“I need to be cleansed by you. Why do you come to me?”

But Jesus said,
“It will be right, true, and faithful to God’s chosen path for you to cleanse me with your hands in the Jordan River.”

So, John agreed, and he ritually cleansed Jesus, dousing him in the waters of the Jordan. Jesus emerged from his baptism; and at that moment heaven was opened, and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him, alighting on his very body. And a voice from heaven exclaimed:

This is my Son, whom I love; this is the apple of my eye; with him I am well pleased!

Message  “Beside Ourselves”

Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem  “Oh, How Good It Is”  Getty, Getty, Townsend & Holmes  arr. Keith Christopher

Mission Moment  Asylum-Seeker Support Update  Judy Kamper

Invitation to the Offering
From all directions, we have come together today through the waters of baptism. This physical act transforms the spirit, makes whole the attitudes of our hearts, and renews us in vigor and hopefulness.

Oh, how good it is!

Offertory

Doxology  “Halleluja”
(sung twice)
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja, Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja, Hal-le-lu-ja, hal-le-lu-ja.

*Prayer of Dedication
O loving God, author of life and keeper of promises, receive these, our gifts, in the spirit of generosity with which they are shared.

May they be embraced by those who long for your grace and mercy of life. Amen, and Amen.

*Blessing and Commissioning

*Sending Forth Song  “I Thank You, Jesus” vv. 1, 2 & repeat 1

Postlude