Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle  
Emily and Russ Kuttenkuler

Words for Reflection

“The moment we break faith with one another, the sea engulfs us and the light goes out.”
- James A. Baldwin

Prelude

The Call  
“I Dream a World”
by Langston Hughes

I dream a world where [people]  
No other [people] will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn  
I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom’s way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.  
A world I dream where black or white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every [person] is free,  
Where wretchedness will hang its head  
And joy, like a pearl,  
Attends the needs of all [humankind] -  
Of such I dream, my world!
Gathering Song

“Community of Christ” vv. 1 & 3

Gathering Prayer

Good and gracious God, who loves and delights in all people, we stand in awe before you, knowing that the spark of life within each person on earth is the spark of your divine life. Differences among cultures and races are multicolored manifestations of Your Light.

May our hearts and minds be open to celebrate similarities and differences among our many siblings. We place our hopes for racial harmony in our committed action and in Your Presence in our Neighbor. May all peoples live in Peace.

Amen.

Children’s Time

Amelia Lloyd

Welcoming New Members

Beth Bazzle
Tom Bazzle
Brian Derton

Congregational Response:

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16 (The Message)

God, the Master, says: “From now on, I myself am the shepherd. I’m going looking for them. As shepherds go after their flocks when they get scattered, I’m going after my sheep. I’ll rescue them from all the places they’ve been scattered to in the storms. I’ll bring them back from foreign peoples, gather them from foreign countries, and bring them back to their home country. I’ll feed them on the mountains of Israel, along the streams, among their own people. I’ll lead them into lush pasture so they can roam the mountain pastures of Israel, graze at leisure, feed in the rich pastures on the mountains of Israel. And I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep. I myself will make sure they get plenty of rest. I’ll go after the lost, I’ll collect the strays, I’ll doctor the injured, I’ll build up the weak ones and oversee the strong ones so they’re not exploited.”

Music for Reflection

Message

“Hearts Toward Wholeness”
Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer
Joyce Haynes McCowan
Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kindom 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 kindom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Song of Response
“Woke Up This Morning”
Amelia Lloyd, vocalist

Moment for Mission
St. Louis Association of the UCC
Lev Reynolds

Thanksgiving to God

Breathing in God’s Blessings

Blessing and Commissioning

Sending Forth Song
“Lift Every Voice and Sing” vv. 1 & 3
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Sources:


Gathering Prayer is from the National Conference for Community and Justice: "Denouncing Racism - A Resource Guide of Faith-Based Principles," Center of Concern’s Education for Justice Racism Unit, found at www.sistersofmercy.org.
Community of Christ

1. Community of Christ, who makes the cross your own,
   live out your creed and risk your life for God alone.

2. Community of Christ, look past the church's door
   and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.

3. Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound
   cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round:

4. When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,
   the climate of the world be peace and Christ its sun;

   the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,
   take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,

   disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,
   our currency be love and kindness our law,

   whose children are of every race and every song,
   take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.

   turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.
   our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, 1985
MUSIC: Hebrew melody; arr. Meyer Leoni, 1780
Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav-en ring, ring with the
2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
3 God of our wea-ry years, God of our si-lent tears, God who has

har-mo-nies of lib-er-ty; Let our re-joic-ing
days when hope un-born had died; Yet with a steady
brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your

rise, high as the lis-tening skies, let it re-sound loud as the
beat, have not our wea-ry feet, come to the place for which our
might, led us in-to the light, keep us for-ev-er in the

roll-ing sea. Sing a song full of the
people sighed? We have come o-ver a
path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the
faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the way that with tears has been wa-tered, We have come, tread-ing our plac-es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the hope that the pres-ent has brought us; Fac-ing the path through the blood of the slaugh-tered, Out from the wine of the world, for-get you; Shad-owed be-
ris- ing sun of our new day be-gun, let us march gloom-y past, till now we stand at last where the white neath your hand, may we for-ev-er stand, true to our on till vic-to-ry is won. gleam of our bright star is cast. God, true to our na-tive land.