

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

August 16th, 2020

11th Sunday after Pentecost

MUSICAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (silent congregational preparation for worship)

PRELUDE Invention # 13

J. S. Bach

CHORAL INTROIT Revive Us Again

J. J. Husband

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from the Iona Abbey Worship Book)

God above us - trees, birds and sunshine, stars and moonlight;

God above us all.

God beneath us - earth, rocks and rivers, roots and caverns;

God beneath us all.

God around us - seas, winds and cities, animals and people;

God around us all.

God within us - hope, tears and laughter, love and wonder;

God within us all.

God above us, God beneath us, God around us, God within us;

We celebrate that You made us, You love us, and You call us to work and rest and play with You. Let us worship God.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

How good and pleasant it is, O God, when kindred live together in unity. Draw us now into the community you intend for all your people. Help us to listen and understand, both your word for us and our sharing with one another. Keep us from being misled by popular acclaim and the wisdom of the marketplace. May we not be unobservant guides to one another but rather be fully open to your gifts and obedient to your call. Come to us now with healing and blessing. Amen.

***HYMN** God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

#54

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

In the light of your word and your call to care for creation, we come to say sorry, God. We're sorry for the times we've messed up, sorry for the bad decisions we've made, sorry for people we've hurt, sorry for damaging your world. In silence we seek your forgiveness for ourselves and healing for the world. Amen.

(moments of personal prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Listen to what God says to us: "I made the heavens and the earth. I call you to be good servants and responsible stewards. Come and work with me. I will always be with you." Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

#805

CHORAL ANTHEM The Lily of the Valley

Arr. Joshua Gill

CHILDREN'S CHAT: William Handy

***HYMN** God in His Love for Us

#385

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:26-31; Psalm 104 (selected verses); Genesis 2:15-17, 3:17-20; Genesis 9:8-16

MESSAGE The "First" (?) commandment; & Two Parables

Rev. Bill Handy

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

#14

PERIOD OF GUIDED PRAYER Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY Andante K. 545

Mozart

***DOXOLOGY**

#809

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

O Brother Jesus, we have been guests at your table and fellow travelers on your Father's creation. Come with us wherever we go and be present in all we share. Summon out in us, whom you have fed with thought, word and deed, generosity of spirit to ensure that all the hungry are nourished and earth's barren places are fertile with food, faith, hope, and love. Transform our offerings, prayers, and lives to your service. Amen.

***HYMN** For the Beauty of Meadows

#383

COMMISSION AND BLESSING (Lakota Saying/Prayer)

"There was a time when man took no more than he needed, that time is gone...

There was a time when he gave something back, that time is gone ...

There was a time when he worshipped the Creator and honored creation, that time too is gone ...

And now the waters are polluted, our natural resources are all but gone, and Creation is dying ...

It is time to find our way back to the earth."

Be with us in our journeys O God. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION** God Be With You

POSTLUDE Rondo K. 545

#840

W. A. Mozart

*All those who are able, please stand.

ORGANIST Diana Mann

CHOIR DIRECTOR Diana Mann

Church office hours Monday--Friday from 8:15 a.m. to noon

Rev. James Deters, Pastor upccpastor@gmail.com

Kate Bernardo, Administrative Assistant kate.uppc@gmail.com

Church office phone 715-682-3093

Large print bulletins, children's bulletins, and aids for the hearing impaired are available, as are a nursery and children's room for families who need a quiet space for babies and young children. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Website: <https://upcchurch.org>

Like us on Facebook at United Presbyterian Congregational Church

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United Presbyterian/Congregational Church

214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

PASTOR: Reverend James Deters

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 am

Illustration by Ben Cogger

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven and sitteth at
the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the
quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Genesis 1:26-31 (from the New Revised Standard Version)

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth”.

So God created humankind in God’s image, in the image of God they were created, male and female God created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything God had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and morning, the sixth day.

Psalms 104: 1-5, 14-20, 24-27, 31-33, 35b (read responsively between liturgist and pastor)

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations so that it shall never be shaken.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.

The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees.

The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the conies.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

They all look to you to give them food in due season ...

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works – who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:17-20 (NRSV)

The Lord God took man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

To the woman God said, “I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth your children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

And to the man, God said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about

which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it’; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat of the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken, and to dust you shall return.

Genesis 9:8-16 (NRSV)

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you, for all future generations; I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On-Line Worship Services to Continue Through August

A discussion on the resumption of in-person worship services dominated the June 17th meeting of Session. Members of Session, well aware of the desire of the church congregation to meet together for Sunday services, considered the spiritual needs of our membership through resumed services while weighing the risks to our community of faith by congregating together once again.

Session heard the report of the worship committee developed from discussions with a retired physician who advises groups on public gatherings as well as information received from the CDC, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church USA, and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. The report of the committee provided several choices for worship including:

- 1) Continuation with the livestreaming of services only.
- 2) Worshipping outdoors with social distancing of family units and the continuation of livestreaming for high risk individuals.
- 3) Worshipping indoors with restrictions. Some of those restrictions would include the interviewing of each attendee for COVID risks outside of the building, restricting access to one entrance, the wearing of face masks, use of hand sanitizer, and elimination of singing and unison liturgical elements of the service. Livestreaming would continue for high risk individuals.

The committee, in its verbal report, noted that the pandemic risk factors are working against us at the present time even though several area congregations have chosen to reopen for in-service worship. The committee recommended continuing with the livestreaming of services only.

Session accepted the recommendation of the committee to keep the church building closed for Sunday worship and offer only live streaming of services through August 19th. Session will review this policy at its August meeting unless conditions change requiring suggesting that the policy be reviewed at an earlier date.

While Session understands that the decision will be disappointing to members of our congregation, it is also aware of media accounts of the spreading of the contagion in areas of the country in which groups have once again started to congregate, including several involving communities of faith. Our congregation consists of many individuals considered to be within the high-risk groups for catching COVID-19. Session believes it has a responsibility to the members and friends of the congregation to err on the side of

caution and protect the safety of those who worship together.

Children's Chats for the summer months...We are looking for volunteers to do children's chats this summer via video for our Sunday streaming services. If you would like to volunteer, need help with this, or need to learn how to do this please email ladams55@gmail.com or text or call Lynn at 715-209-6784.

54 God, Who Stretched the Spangled

He stretches out the heavens like a tent . . . Ps. 104:2

1. God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens, in - fi - nite in time and place,
 2. Proud - ly rise our mod - ern cit - ies, state - ly build - ings row on row;
 3. We have con - quered worlds un - dreamed of since the child - hood of our race;
 4. As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal - lenge us a - new,

flung the suns in burn - ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space.
 yet their win - dows, blank, un - feel - ing, stare on can - yoned streets be - low,
 known the ec - sta - sy of wing - ing through un - chart - ed realms of space;
 chil - dren of cre - at - ive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, honor - ing you.

We, your chil - dren, in your like - ness, share in - ven - tive powers with you:
 where the lone - ly drift un - not - iced in the cit - y's ebb and flow,
 probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield - ing un - im - ag - ined power,
 May our dreams prove rich with prom - ise, each en - deav - or well be - gun:

Great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
 lost to pur - pose and to mean - ing, scarce - ly car - ing where they go.
 fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
 Great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

385 God in His Love for Us

"He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing." Job 26:7

1. God in his love for us lent us this plan - et,
 2. Thanks be to God for its boun - ty and beau - ty,
 3. Long have our hu - man wars ru - ined its har - vest;
 4. Earth is the Lord's: it is ours to en - joy it,

gave it a pur - pose in time and in space:
 life that sus - tains us in bod - y and mind:
 long has earth bowed to the ter - ror of force;
 ours, as his stew - ards, to farm and de - fend.

small as a spark from the fire of cre - a - tion,
 plen - ty for all, if we learn how to share it,
 long have we wast - ed what oth - ers have need of,
 From its pol - lu - tion, mis - use, and de - struc - tion,

cra - dle of life and the home of our race.
 rich - es un - dreamed of to fath - om and find.
 poi - soned the foun - tain of life at its source.
 good Lord, de - liv - er us, world with - out end!

383 For Beauty of Meadows

"The whole earth is mine . . ." Ex. 19:5

1. For beau - ty of mead - ows, for gran - deur of trees,
 2. As stew - ards of beau - ty re - ceived at your hand,
 3. Teach us once a - gain to be gar - deners in peace;

for flow - ers of wood - lands, for crea - tures of seas,
 as crea - tures who hear your most ur - gent com - mand,
 all na - ture a - round us is ours but on lease;

for all you cre - at - ed and gave us to share,
 we turn from our waste - ful de - struc - tion of life,
 your name we would hal - low in all that we do,

we praise you, Cre - a - tor, ex - tol - ling your care.
 con - fess - ing our fail - ures, con - fess - ing our strife.
 ful - fill - ing our call - ing, cre - at - ing with you.