

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

July 12th, 2020

6th Sunday after Pentecost

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**MUSICAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** (silent congregational preparation for worship)

**PRELUDE** Give Me Jesus

*Spiritual*

**INTROIT** Praise the Lord

*W. H. Doane*

**GREETING** L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

Open yourselves this day to receive the Word.

**We have committed ourselves to follow the light.**

**We come now to be instructed by God's law.**

Minds set on the flesh are hostile to God.

Let us, therefore, open ourselves to the Spirit.

**We reach out for more than we can see and hear.**

**We long to know Love's embrace deep within.**

The Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead.

That Spirit dwells in you and offers you new life.

**We praise God, who saves us and gives us hope.**

**God cares for the earth and for each one of us.**

**MORNING PRAYER**

God, we celebrate the freedom you give us to make our own response to all the possibilities you lay out before us. We are grateful for the revelation you provide through the witness of many in the Scriptures. Through their words, help us to discern your Word.

Come to us in the midst of our diversity to bring understanding and mutual caring. Open us to a new appreciation of our birthright as your children. Beyond all our clamor for the things of this world, we long for the richness of spirit you alone can provide. Feed us here, we pray. Amen.

**\*HYMN** Holy Spirit, Light Divine

**#302**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

**All-knowing God, we know you understand us more deeply than we understand ourselves. You know how much the cares of this life weigh us down. Our thoughts and actions are often very shortsighted. We take so much for granted, failing to**

**value the wonder of life all around us, the gift of family and friends, the amazing reality of your Spirit dwelling in us. We want to be like good soil, receiving the seed of your word with understanding that nourishes roots of trust and joy. Free us from all that keep us from bearing fruit for you. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. As disciples of Jesus, we have the opportunity to grow in understanding and in the joy of serving others in Christ's name. The Spirit of life sets us free from our narrow concerns to celebrate the good within and around us. Life is transformed by our new attitude of gratitude.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**#805**

**CHORAL ANTHEM** Since Jesus Came Into My Heart

*Charles H. Gabriel*

**CHILDREN'S CHAT** Laura Bohn

**\*HYMN** Wonderful Words of Life

**#309**

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 119:105-112; Isaiah 55:10-13 & Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**MESSAGE** Andrew MacGregor

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Apostle's Creed

**#14**

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

**OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES**

**OFFERTORY** In Christ There Is no East or West

*A.R. Reinagle*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**#809**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

**Accept our offering of praise and our offering of ourselves, O God, along with our tithes and contributions toward our church's mission. You have given us life and guidance for living. You have made us partakers of your own Spirit. We rejoice in the opportunity to receive and share your Word. May the ministry in which all of us have a share bear much fruit, bringing in an abundant harvest for your realm.**

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN** Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

**#834**

**COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Carry the lamp of God's Word into the week ahead.

Share its light with all you meet.

**God's Word lights our path and guides our feet.**

**The heritage we have received is ours to pass on.**

Do not be bound by concerns of the flesh.

Set your minds on matters of the Spirit.

**The Spirit of Christ dwells in us.**

**God gives us gifts of life and peace.**

Share in daily offerings of praise to God.

Pass on the joy of living in the Spirit.

**Our hearts are inclined to God's statutes.**

**Your ways, O God, bring joy to our hearts.**

**Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**POSTLUDE** Jesus in the Morning

**#840**

*American Folk Song*

\*All those who are able, please stand.

**ORGANIST** Diana Mann

**CHOIR DIRECTOR** Diana Mann

**SINGERS** Bill Handy, Lynn Adams, Becca Nelson

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

**Rev. James Deters, Pastor** [upccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:upccpastor@gmail.com)

**Kate Bernardo, Administrative Assistant** [kate.uppc@gmail.com](mailto:kate.uppc@gmail.com)

**Church office phone** 715-682-3093

**Website:** <https://upcchurch.org>

**Like us on Facebook at** United Presbyterian Congregational Church

**Join our Facebook group** at UPCC Connection



## **United Presbyterian/Congregational Church**

**214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806**

**PASTOR: Reverend James Deters**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 am**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am**

**SUMMER 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

## **Psalm 119:105-112** (NIV)

Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path.

I have taken an oath and confirmed it that I will follow  
your righteous laws.

I have suffered much; preserve my life, Lord, according  
to your word.

Accept, Lord, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach  
me your laws.

Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not  
forget your law.

The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not  
strayed from your precepts.

Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy  
of my heart.

My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.

## **Isaiah 55: 10-13** (NIV)

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and  
do not return to it without watering the earth and  
making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the  
sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes  
out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but  
will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for  
which I sent it.

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the  
mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and  
all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and  
instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the  
Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure  
forever."

## **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23** (NIV)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the  
lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got  
into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the  
shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying:  
"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering  
the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and  
ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have

much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

- 1) Continuation with the live streaming of services only.
- 2) Worshiping outdoors with social distancing of family units and the continuation of live streaming for high risk individuals.
- 3) Worshiping 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. Live streaming would continue for high risk individuals.

## BIRTHDAYS

|         |                                |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| July 12 | Tom Cogger & Savannah Swanson  |
| July 13 | Toby Griggs                    |
| July 14 | Matt Dufek, Olivia Adams       |
| July 15 | Elin Florence Wickman          |
| July 17 | Kaitlyn Zinnecker & Jim Miller |
| July 18 | Katie Kacvinsky                |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Online worship services to continue through August

A discussion on the resumption of in-person worship services dominated the June 17<sup>th</sup> 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:

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 live streaming 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 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 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 [ladams1055@gmail.com](mailto:ladams1055@gmail.com) or text or call Lynn at 715-209-6784.

**Communications Committee** In an effort to keep the congregation informed of events and activities of interest to the church family, please submit announcements for

inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. The submittal deadline is noon every Tuesday. Please send your information to the church office via email to [info@upchurch.org](mailto:info@upchurch.org).

# Holy Spirit, Light Divine 302

He . . . will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit. Rom. 8:11



1. Ho - ly Spir - it, Light di - vine, shine up - on this heart of mine;
2. Ho - ly Spir - it, Power di - vine, cleanse this guilt - y heart of mine;
3. Ho - ly Spir - it, Joy di - vine, cheer this sad - dened heart of mine;
4. Ho - ly Spir - it, all di - vine, dwell with - in this heart of mine;



chase the shades of night a - way, turn my dark - ness in - to day.  
 long has sin with - out con - trol held do - min - ion o'er my soul.  
 bid my man - y woes de - part, heal my wound - ed, bleed - ing heart.  
 cast down ev - ery i - dol throne, reign su - preme, and reign a - lone.



WORDS: Andrew Reed, 1817, alt.  
 MUSIC: Louis M. Gottschalk, 1854; arr. Edwin P. Parker, c. 1888

MERCY  
 7.7.7.



# 309 Wonderful Words of Life

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Jn. 6:68

1. Sing them o - ver a - gain to me, won - der - ful words of life;  
 2. Christ, the bless - ed One, gives to all won - der - ful words of life;  
 3. Sweet - ly ech - o the gos - pel call, won - der - ful words of life;

let me more of their beau - ty see, won - der - ful words of life.  
 sin - ner, list to the lov - ing call, won - der - ful words of life.  
 of - fer par - don and peace to all, won - der - ful words of life.

Words of life and beau - ty, teach me faith and du - ty:  
 All so free - ly giv - en, woo - ing us to heav - en:  
 Je - sus, on - ly Sav - ior, sanc - ti - fy for - ev - er:

*Refrain*

Beau-ti-ful words, won-der-ful words, won-der-ful words of life. 1 2  
 life.

# 834 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . be with you all. 2 Cor. 13:14

1. Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
 2. Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's

joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,  
 joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace; O di - rect us  
 in our hearts and lives a - bound; ev - er faith - ful,

and pro - tect us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
 ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.