

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

July 19th, 2020

7th Sunday after Pentecost

MUSICAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (silent congregational preparation for worship)

PRELUDE **Air from Water Music** **G. F. Handel**

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God has searched us and knows us.

God knows when we sit down and where we rise up.

God searches out our path and our lying down.

God is acquainted with all our ways.

Before a word is on our tongues, God knows it.

God's hand is ever available to guide us.

Such knowledge is a wonder to us.

It is beyond anything we can attain.

We cannot escape from God's spirit.

There is nowhere to flee from God's presence.

Darkness is a light to our God.

God illuminates the way before us.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

Search us, O God, and know our hearts. Test us and know our thoughts. We gather with eager longing to know you, ever-present God, and to be known by you. We want to live as your beloved children. Assure us in these moments that you hear our prayer, ever as your will is revealed to us. Fill our dreams and our waking hours with radiant hope. May every time of encounter move us to awe and fervent worship. Lead us in your way everlasting. Amen.

***HYMN** Praise to the Lord, The Almighty **#77**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Search us and test us, that all wickedness may be purged from us, O Creator. Save us from our futile striving after our own advantage. Reshape our will to conform with your intention for us. We confess that we have allowed weeds to grow in our lives. Our focus has drifted from the harvest you intend to the fears and greed that hold us hostage. Release us from bondage to decay that we may grow in likeness to Jesus Christ. We want to bear fruit for you. Turn us to the brightness of a new day. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If by the Spirit we put to death the misuse of our bodies, we will live. We are set free from bondage to death to claim the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Live in the hope God offers, waiting with patience for all that God will yet reveal. You will shine like the sun in the realm of God, who leads us in the way everlasting.

***GLORIA PATRI**

#805

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM: Sunniva Joy Hulstrand

***HYMN** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee **#20**

SCRIPTURE Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 (p.566); Romans 8:12-25 (p.1030) & Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (p.890)

MESSAGE Rev. James Deters

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

***DOXOLOGY** **#809**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

Thank you, God for the rich heritage of faith we have received from our ancestors. We are grateful that your Spirit is ever with us, assuring us of your acceptance and love. May our offerings share this good news with other children of God who have not yet discovered their identity. May all of us grow in righteousness that we might together experience the reality of your realm in our daily lives, here and now and for all eternity. Amen.

***HYMN** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling **#558**

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Scatter to serve, listening for God's direction.

Let your face shine with the good news you have received.

The Spirit of God will lead us day by day.

God claims us and is with us every moment.

God promises to be with us wherever we go.

We can say, "Surely God is in this place."

God searches us and knows us.

All our thoughts and actions are discerned by God.

Let us live, then, according to the Spirit.
Let us show forth the first fruits of the Spirit.

With eager longing, we seek to live in the Spirit.

We look up with hope and patience and joy.

Amen.

LAKE SUPERIOR BLESSING

***BENEDICTION**

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

POSTLUDE Excerpt from "Alleluia!"

*All those who are able, please stand.

ORGANIST Myra Bliss

CHOIR DIRECTOR Diana Mann

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

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Website: <https://upcchurch.org>

Like us on Facebook at United Presbyterian Congregational Church

Join our Facebook group at UPCC Connection

#840
Mozart



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

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of

the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

36-43

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

BIRTHDAYS

July 19th	Mollie McKuen
July 20	Susan Delnay
July 21	Pieper Brunsvold
July 22	Dale Moyer
July 23	Nola Bohn
July 25	Roth Edwards

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Food Distributions:

- July 22nd from 10 am to Noon at WITC in Ashland
- August 5th from 10 am to Noon at WITC in Ashland

Note: There are no income requirements for this distribution. There will also be a food distribution from Second Harvest in Duluth - date not known at this time.

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) Worshiping outdoors with social distancing of family units and the continuation of livestreaming 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. 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 7152096784.

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 submission deadline is noon every Tuesday. Please send your information to the church office via email to info@upcchurch.org.

