

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

July 26th 2020

8th Sunday after Pentecost

MUSICAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (silent congregational preparation for worship)

PRELUDE Chorale: My Dearest Jesu *J. Cruger - J. S. Bach*

CHORAL INTROIT Praise the Lord *W. H. Doane*

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us call on our God and give thanks.

Let hearts rejoice as we sing God's praise.

Glorify be to God in whose covenant we find life.

Let all the people tell of God's wonderful works.

Let us open ourselves continually to God's presence.

Let us seek the strength that God alone provides.

Surely the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

The Spirit searches our hearts and enlarges our prayers.

Who can separate us from the love of God?

Will hardships, distress, or peril overcome us?

Nothing can separate us from God's love.

We can face all things, knowing God's care.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

Meet us here, holy God, to search our hearts and strengthen our spirits. Plant your Word among us that it may spring up in nurturing, inviting ways for the sake of all your creatures. May we find in these moments of worship the assurance we need to live triumphantly in the face of loss, discouragement, and suffering. Lead us, by the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, to trust you and your will for us. We believe that whatever happens, you can bring some good from it. Show us, O God, the good you intend. Amen.

***HYMN** O Worship the King **#29**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

You know us, God, better than we know ourselves. You know the ways we scheme and manipulate for our own advantage. You are aware of how often our deeds fail to match the faith we claim. Help us to face ourselves with honesty. Give us the will and courage to change our ways. We give thanks for Christ's intercession for us. We rejoice as the Spirit gives voice to all we cannot express. Save us, O God, that our lives might give expression to your reign. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Praise our God who forgives and restores. Give thanks for the inheritance that is ours in Christ Jesus. We have received a pearl of great value, a treasure undeserved, a pardon unmerited. Nothing can separate us from the love of God - nor death or life, not angels nor rulers, not things present or things to come, not heights or depths; no earthly power or anything in all creation can take away God's abiding concern and care for each one of us. Praise God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

#805

CHILDREN'S CHAT Pastor Jim

***HYMN** O Love That Will Not Let Me Go **#531**

SCRIPTURE Psalm 128 (p.561); Romans 8:26-39 (p.1030) & Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (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 from Chaconne in F minor *J. Pachelbel*

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

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

The gift of your realm is precious to us, O God. It is worth our greatest efforts and our caring sacrifice. As we search for the best in life, we also want to share our faith discoveries with friends and neighbors. We do that personally and with our giving. May our outreach proclaim to all that nothing can separate us from your love. We give you thanks that you have entrusted to us all that we are privileged to share. Amen.

***HYMN** I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord verses 1 - 4 **#702**

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God remembers the covenant made with humanity.

May we remember our part of that covenant.

We will praise our God wherever we go.

We will tell of God's wonderful works.

God brings good from the worst of circumstances.

Those who trust God live with confidence.

We believe nothing can separate us from God's love.

In Christ, we are assured of God's care.

We are invited to make God's realm our first priority.

Living as God intends is life's greatest fulfillment.

May our mustard-seed faith grow strong.

We treasure God's realm in our midst. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

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

POSTLUDE Festal March from "Rinaldo" *G. F. Handel*

#840

*All those who are able, please stand.

ORGANIST Nancy Dufek

CHOIR DIRECTOR Diana Mann

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

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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 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 128

p.561

Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways.

You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.

The Lord bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

Romans 8:26-39

p.1030

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

p.890

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

44-52

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil

from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes."
And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

BIRTHDAYS

July 29	Anne Whiting
July 30	Caraline Evenson & Justin Melland
August 1	Mary Jean Doane, Sharon Hammond, Tyler Wickman & Andrea Robertson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming food distribution

- 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.

Online 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 ladams1055@gmail.com or text or call Lynn at 715-209-6784.

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.

O Worship the King 29

O Lord, my God . . . you are clothed with splendor and majesty. Ps. 104:1

1. O wor-ship the King, all glo-rious a - bove, O grate - ful - ly
2. O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the
3. Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the
4. Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail, in thee do we

sing his power and his love; our Shield and De - fend - er, the
light, whose can - o - py space. His char - iots of wrath the deep
air, it shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it de -
trust, nor find thee to fail; thy mer - cies how ten - der, how

An - cient of Days, pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
thun - der clouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
scends to the plain, and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
firm to the end, our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er and Friend.

WORDS: Robert Grant, 1833; para. of Psalm 104
MUSIC: William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, Vol. II, 1815; attr. Johann M. Haydn, 18th C.

LYONS
10.10.11.11.

Aspiration and Resolve

+ + +

531 O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

The Lord appeared . . . saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love." Jer. 31:3

1. O Love that will not let me go, I rest my wea-ry
2. O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my flick-ering
3. O Joy that seek-est me through pain, I can-not close my
4. O Cross that lift-est up my head, I dare not ask to

soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
torch to thee; my heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, that
heart to thee; I trace the rain-bow through the rain, and
fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo-ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
in thy sun-shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

WORDS: George Matheson, 1882
MUSIC: Albert L. Peace, 1884

ST. MARGARET
8.8.8.6

702 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

I love the house where you live, O Lord, the place where your glory dwells. Ps. 26:8

1. I love thy king - dom, Lord, the house of thine a - bode, the
 2. I love thy Church, O God! Her walls be - fore thee stand, dear
 3. For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers as - cend; to
 4. Be - yond my high - est joy I prize her heaven - ly ways, her
 5. Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zi - on shall be given the

Church our blest Re - deem - er saved with his own pre - cious blood.
 as the ap - ple of thine eye, and grav - en on thy hand.
 her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.
 sweet com - mun - ion, sol - emn vows, her hymns of love and praise.
 bright - est glo - ries earth can yield, and bright - er bliss of heaven.

WORDS: Timothy Dwight, 1801
 MUSIC: Aaron Williams, 1763, 1770

ST. THOMAS
 S.M.