

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

August 23rd, 2020

MUSICAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (silent congregational preparation for worship)

PRELUDE Alle Menschen Mussen Sterben *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

Our help is from God, who made heaven and earth.

Come to worship the One who answers our prayers.

If God were not on our side, we could not live.

If God were not for us, we would be swept away.

God has gifted each one of us in unique ways.

In our variety, we complement one another.

We rejoice in God's love and faithfulness.

Blessed be our God, whose word is true.

In thankfulness, we bring our joyous songs.

We are here to pay attention to God's instructions.

We are here, seeking to discern God's will.

We are open to God's transforming Spirit.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

God beyond our knowing, we believe that you care for humble people who seek to follow your Word more than for those who are pretentious and proud in places of power. You have protected your people when they were surrounded by trouble. You have provided a way of escape in the midst of oppression. Your love never fails. Come, Holy One, to transform us. Work within and among us to renew our minds and build community. Nurse us into the health you intend for all your children. You are our help and our hope. Amen.

***HYMN** Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above **#50**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we did not realize that we are among the rich oppressors of this world. We think we are poor when we cannot have everything we want. Keep us from misusing the power we have. We confess our fear of those who are unlike us. We set up barriers against them when we are afraid. Keep us from acting in ways that alienate and divide. When we are tempted to conform to the world's standards; set

before us the higher model of sacrifice and service that is given to us in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God gives us grace to think with sober judgment and to act with confident faith. By that grace, we have unique gifts to use within the body of Christ. God forgives and heals and empowers us with new insights and expanded capacity to serve. In humble obedience, we learn the joy of following Jesus and living for the highest good for all.

***GLORIA PATRI**

#805

CHORAL ANTHEM His Eye Is On the Sparrow *Ruth Elaine Schram*

CHILDREN'S CHAT Pastor Jim

***HYMN** Trust and Obey **#523**

SCRIPTURE Psalm 124 (p.560); Romans 12:1-8 (p.1033) & Matthew 16:13-20 (p.894)

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 Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin *J. C. Bach*

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

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

Receive our offerings, gracious God, as an expression of our thankfulness. In your church, we are privileged to cultivate the dimensions of our lives that give meaning and purpose to all we do. Here we become aware that the greatest gifts we receive are not material, and we learn how best to use the particular gifts you give us. At the same time, you show us how our material advantages can help others. May many be blessed through our sharing of these offerings and our sharing of ourselves. Amen.

***HYMN** The Solid Rock **#517**

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Serve the world as people transformed by God.

Let others know God's mercy and forgiveness.

We seek to live as Jesus taught.

We seek to embody trust in God and love of all.

Daily, God renews our energy and confirms our gifts.

In Christ we are drawn away from conformity to the world.

Our agenda is to discern and do God's will

We aim to use well the gifts God has given.

Remember that God is on our side.
God calls us into community with one another.

In Christ, there are no enemies.

We recognize all people as God's children. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

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

POSTLUDE Little Prelude in F

#840

J. S. Bach

*All those who are able, please stand.

ORGANIST Nancy Dufek

CHOIR DIRECTOR Diana Mann

SINGERS Becca Nelson, Lynn Adams, Tim Delnay, Bill Handy



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

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

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

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Psalm 124

p.560

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side —let Israel now say—if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters.

Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Romans 12:1-8

p.1033

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-20

p.894

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah,^[a] the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

BIRTHDAYS

8-23	Ray Stuart, Bill Biglow Jr., Jolie Kauppila & Larry Servinsky
8-28	Meggan Traaholt
8-29	Madison Beeksma-Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

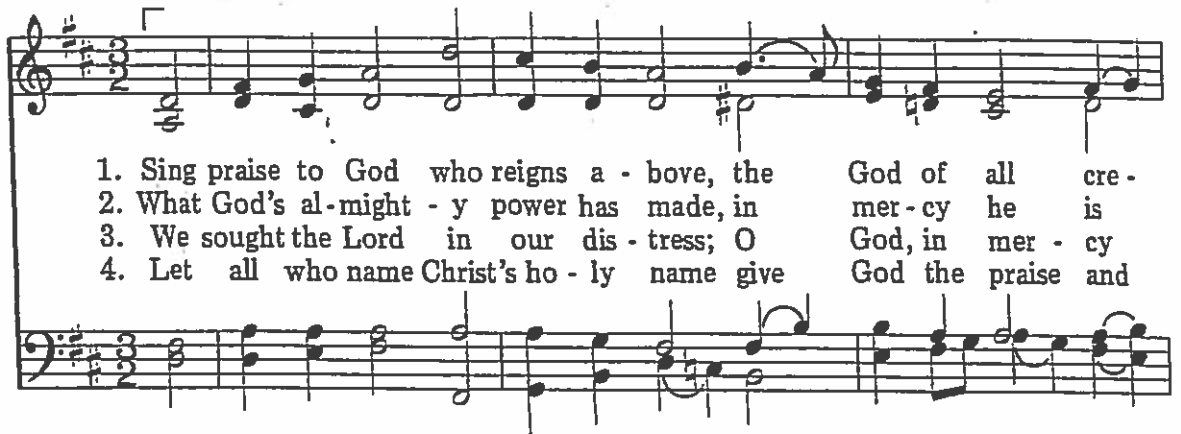
While Session understands that the decision will be disappointing to members of our congregation, it is also aware of media accounts of the spreading of the contagion in areas of the country in which groups have once again started to congregate, including several involving communities of faith. Our congregation 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.

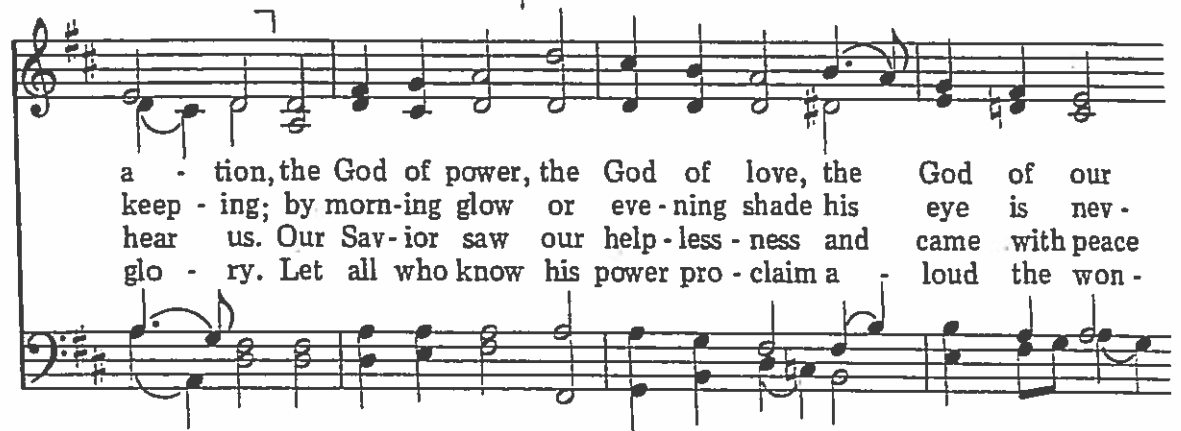
Communications Committee In an effort to keep the congregation informed of events and activities of interest to the church family, please submit announcements for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. The submission deadline is noon every Tuesday. Please send your information to the church office via email to info@upcchurch.org.

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above 50

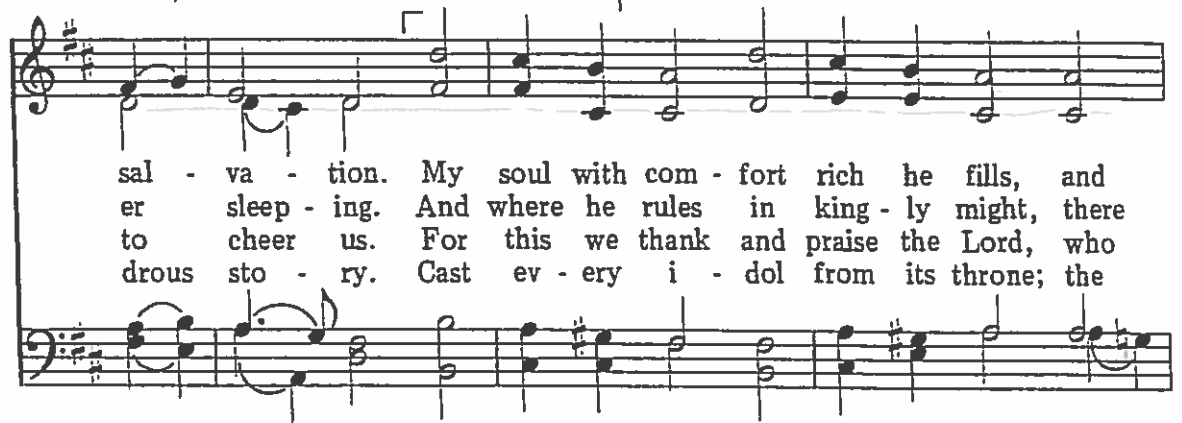
The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad . . . Ps. 97:1



1. Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
 2. What God's al - might - y power has made, in mer - cy he is
 3. We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
 4. Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name give God the praise and



a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our
 keep - ing; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his eye is nev -
 hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness and came with peace
 glo - ry. Let all who know his power pro - claim a loud the won -



sal - va - tion. My soul with com - fort rich he fills, and
 er sleep - ing. And where he rules in king - ly might, there
 to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord, who
 drous sto - ry. Cast ev - ery i - dol from its throne; the



ev - ery grief he gen - tly stills: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 is by one and all a - dored: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry!

Trust and Obey 523

Now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. Eph. 5:8

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a
 2. Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share, but our
 3. But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of his love un - til
 4. Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll

glo - ry he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he a - bides with us
 toil he will rich - ly re - pay; not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a
 all on the al - tar we lay; for the fa - vor he shows and the joy he be -
 walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will

Refrain

still, and with all who will trust and o - bey.
 cross, but is blest if we trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's
 stows are for them who will trust and o - bey.
 go - nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.

no oth - er way to be hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.

The Solid Rock 517

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 3:11

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

right - eous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale my
 whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way he
 him be found, dressed in his right - eous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ the sol - id Rock I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

oth - er ground is sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.