

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

October 18th, 2020

20th Sunday after Pentecost

MUSICAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (silent congregational preparation for worship)

PRELUDE Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart *Colin Curtis*

CHORAL INTROIT Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are drawn to worship by a Reality unseen.

The One we call God is beyond human description.

God is more than we can ever imagine.

We sense God's presence as we meditate.

We gather in awe to bring our songs of praise.

The Creator of all things has given us life.

We are amazed by the wonders around us.

We feel God's presence as we sing together.

We are summoned by One who is just and merciful.

The Ruler of all worlds expects us to respond.

How amazing that God chooses us as messengers.

We know God is with us as we work for justice.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

Appear to us here, God of all worlds, for we need your assurance and blessing. We seek the strength to do what is right and just. We long to see you, even though we sense that a God we could see would be only a tiny part of you whose Spirit fills all time and space.

We want you to have a face like ours, so we find your face in Jesus, and occasionally in one another. We want to be certain that our decisions and actions are right, but often it is only long afterwards that we realize you were with us. O God, we want to be open to all you are revealing to us now. Amen.

***HYMN** Let All The World #24

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Awesome God, how puny is our cleverness before the magnitude of your reality!

How fleeting are our days measured against the far reaches of eternity! Yet we set our limited knowledge and restricted purposes against your will for us and presume to direct our own affairs and those of the whole world. O God, we are trapped in our

pretensions. Turn us from our need for proof to extravagant praise. Turn us inside out so our self-interest becomes concern for all your neglected children. Suppress in us the sinful ways we find so difficult to manage on our own, that we may joyously render to you all that is already yours. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When we allow God to touch us, our malice is melted down, our fears are defeated, our failures are forgiveness. God raises us from death to new life, from helplessness to hope, from arrogant self-seeking to humble service. Enter into the joy of true worship!

***GLORIA PATRI**

#805

CHORAL ANTHEM The Publican *Beardsley Van de Water*

CHILDREN'S CHAT Pastor Jim

***HYMN** Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine #514

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 45:1-7 (p.661); 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (p.1075) & Matthew 22:15-22 (p.900)

MESSAGE Rev. James Deters

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *See insert*

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

OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY Sweet Hour of Prayer *Gene Clark*

***DOXOLOGY** #809

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

O God, we sense that you are calling us to manage well all the things that belong to you. The empires of this world have no claim on the resources you have provided except as they are used for the common good. The offerings we receive as a church are not for our private benefit or to buy services for ourselves. Thus, we here dedicate the gifts you have provided in our money and our abilities and our time to extend a helping hand and joyous welcome to all peoples on the face of the earth. May our efforts find favor with you. Amen.

***HYMN** How Firm A Foundation verses: 1, 2, 5 #612

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

We have gathered in community to worship God.

Now our service of praise continues in the world.

We have been equipped with the gospel message.

God empowers our outreach wherever we go.

Illustration by Ben Cogger

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand,
and by which we are saved,
if we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins
according to the scriptures,
that he was buried,
that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared
first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;
he is our Lord and our God. Amen.
(Adapted from the *Book of Common Worship*)

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Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord; for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he

raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

- 10/21 Noon AA meeting in Lower Lounge (in-person)
5:30 pm Session meeting
- 10/22 9:00 am Bible study in youth room (in-person)

BIRTHDAYS

- 18 Dan Heisler, Bill Bissell, Bill Bissell Jr &
Darrel Robertson
- 23 James Green, Sally MacGregor, Ernie Bliss &
Marcus Bokenyi
- 24 Thomas Whiting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Chats We are looking for volunteers to do children's chats 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.

Today's Choral Anthem, "The Publican", depicts the biblical story of the Pharisee and the Publican. Becca acts as the narrator, Bill is the Pharisee, and Tim is the publican. The Pharisee boasts about what a godly person he is; the Publican humbly asks for God's mercy, to forgive his sins. "He that exalts himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Luke 14:11

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Let All the World 24

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Ps. 96:1

Unison

1. Let all the world in ev-ery cor-ner sing: my God and
 2. Let all the world in ev-ery cor-ner sing: my God and

King! The heavens are not too high, his praise may thi-ther
 King! The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them

fly; the earth is not too low, his prais-es there may grow.
 out; but, more than all, the heart must bear the long-est part.

Let all the world in ev-ery cor-ner sing: my God and King!
 Let all the world in ev-ery cor-ner sing: my God and King!

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine 514

Is anyone happy? . . . Sing songs of praise. Jas. 5:13

1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a fore-taste of
 2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now
 3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am

glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,
 burst on my sight; an-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove
 hap-py and blest, watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,

born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood. This is my sto-ry,
 ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; this is my

sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

How Firm a Foundation 612

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid. 1 Cor. 3:11

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
 2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
 3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
 4. "When through fier-y tri-als thy path-way shall lie,
 5. "The soul that on Je-sus still leans for re- pose,

is laid for your faith in his ex-cel-lent word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv-ers of sor-row shall not o-ver-flow;
 my grace, all suf-fi-cient, shall be thy sup-ply;
 I will not, I will not de-sert to its foes;

What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 I'll strength-en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be with thee, thy trou-bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee, I on-ly de-sign
 that soul, though all hell should en-deav-or to shake,

to you who for ref-uge to Je-sus have fled?
 up-held by my right-eous, om-ni-potent hand.
 and sanc-ti-fy to thee thy deep-est dis-tress.
 thy dross to con-sume, and thy gold to re-fine.
 I'll nev-er, no, nev-er, no, nev-er for-sake!"