

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

November 8th, 2020

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

MUSICAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP AND COUNTDOWN

MINI MOVIE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

PRELUDE St. Anne

Healey Willan

CHORAL INTROIT Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

John Antes

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Put away the things you have substituted for God.

Let your worship of the one true God be genuine.

We seek to know God and to rejoice before our Creator.

We know that God is beyond all our false images.

God is not deceived by our solemn assemblies.

Our empty festivals do not impress our God.

We want to give joyous expression to a growing faith.

We choose to serve the God whom Jesus revealed.

Our hope is in God's grace beyond all judgment.

Our trust is in God's love, greater than our feeble imitation.

We welcome the light God promises us.

We seek to respond with faithful service.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

God of our ancestors, be our God today as we gather in sincerity and faithfulness to honor you. Attune our hearts to your commandments as we remember your mighty acts.

Declare your words to us so we may be inspired to obey. We know that we must decide today whether or not we will serve you. Not to decide is to reject you. O God, save us from the idols that appear so attractive to us, the toys that take so much of our attention, and the pursuits that dominate our time. Make your dwelling place with us here. Amen.

***HYMN** God of Our Fathers

#419

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

If sin means cutting ourselves off from you and being unprepared to respond to your presence, surely we have sinned. Our lamps are not trimmed, our lives are not ready for your trumpet call. We have not listened well or encouraged one another in the faith. The distraction of many things has kept us from meditation and prayer.

We are witnesses against ourselves for we have vowed our loyalty and then have gone our own way. Merciful God, we seek your forgiveness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God brought our spiritual ancestors out of bondage and protected them along their way. We believe God is eager to free us from all that imprisons us. Our days on earth are a trust from God, and we serve God best by investing our time in learning and living God's intentions for us. It is God's will that we live in harmony with one another, that we learn to love all God's children. God extends full pardon to us. Praise God for forgiveness and a second chance.

***GLORIA PATRI**

#805

CHORAL ANTHEM Sing a New Song to the Lord

Natalie Sleeth

CHILDREN'S CHAT Pastor Jim

***HYMN** Be Still, My Soul

#530

SCRIPTURE Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 (p.213); 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 (p.1075) & Matthew 25:1-13 (p.903)

MESSAGE Rev. James Deters

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Nicene Creed#15

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

OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES

DEDICATION OF OUR PLEDGES

OFFERTORY All Creatures of Our God and King

Gregg Sewell

***DOXOLOGY**

#809

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

We set our hope in you, God of all ages, and seek to serve you through our offerings and our efforts to encourage and equip one another for ministry. Help us decide daily to live according to your will, preparing ourselves for the opportunities and challenges you give us. May your rule shape our lives in ways that introduce many to the joys of eternity in the midst of time. Amen.

***HYMN** My Country 'Tis of Thee

#417

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God, expects our complete loyalty and devotion.

God's love frees us for joyous living.

We will serve the God we have met here.

We know that God goes with us everywhere.

May worship continue wherever we go.

May our service extend God's love to all we meet.

We will consult God in our daily choices.

We will respond to others in the spirit of Christ.

God is faithful in covenant with us.

The counsel of God is always available to us.

We will take time to rest in God's promises.

We will listen for God's word of hope. Amen

***BENEDICTION**

CHORAL RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION Barocha

POSTLUDE Maestoso in A. Major

M. Card

F. Mendelssohn

*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

Rev. James Deters, Pastor upccpastor@gmail.com

Kate Bernardo, Administrative Assistant kate.uppc@gmail.com

Church office phone 715-682-3093



United Presbyterian/Congregational Church

214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

PASTOR: Reverend James Deters

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 am

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am

Website: <https://upcchurch.org>

Like us on Facebook at United Presbyterian Congregational Church

Join our Facebook group at UPCC Connection

Illustration by Ben Cogger

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

p.213

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac;

“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

p.1075

You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it

not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

Matthew 25:1-13

p.903

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

11/9	10:00 am In-person TEAM meeting in dining room
11/10	8:15 am Virtual Stewardship Committee meeting
11/11	Noon - In-person AA meeting in lower lounge
11/12	9:00 am In-person Bible study in Youth room

BIRTHDAYS

10	Hazel Biglow, Ahnali Zifko, Brenda Mattson
11	Sara Heisler
12	Dausyn Torres
13	Diana Norman & Kaleb Ray
14	Carla Bremner, Mike Sheils, Ashley Mahnke, Glenn Samuelson & Molly MacGregor

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.

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God of Our Fathers 419

In you our ancestors . . . trusted, and you delivered them. Ps. 22:4



1. God of our fa - thers, whose al-might-y
2. Thy love di-vine hath led us in the
3. From war's a-larms, from dead-ly pes-ti-
4. Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil-some



hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry
 past; in this free land by thee our lot is
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de -
 way; lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing



band of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the
 cast; be thou our Rul - er, Guard - ian, Guide and
 fense; thy true re - lig - ion in our hearts in -
 day; fill all our lives with love and grace di -



skies, our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 Stay, thy Word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 cease, thy boun-teous good - ness nour-ish us in peace.
 vine; and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.



Be Still, My Soul 530

Why are you downcast, O my soul? . . . Put your hope in God . . . Ps. 42:5



1. Be still, my soul! The Lord is on your side: bear pa-tient-ly the
 2. Be still, my soul! Your God will un - der - take to guide the fu - ture
 3. Be still, my soul! The hour is has - tening on when we shall be for -



cross of grief or pain; leave to your God to or - der and pro-vide;
 as he has the past; your hope, your con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 ev - er with the Lord, when dis - ap - point - ment, grief and fear are gone,



in ev - ery change he faith - ful will re - main. Be still, my soul! Your
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul! The
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul! When



best, your heaven-ly Friend thro' thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 waves and winds still know his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
 change and tears are past, all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.



My Country, 'Tis of Thee 417

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. Prov. 14:34



1. My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of lib - er - ty,
2. My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the no - ble free,
3. Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees
4. Our fa - thers' God, to thee, Au - thor of lib - er - ty,



of thee I sing: land where my fa - thers died, land of the
thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and
sweet free - dom's song: let mor - tal tongues a - wake, let all that
to thee we sing: long may our land be bright with free - dom's



pil - grims' pride, from ev - ery moun - tain side let free - dom ring!
tem - pled hills; my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.
breathe par - take; let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.
ho - ly light; pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our King!

WORDS: Samuel F. Smith, 1832
MUSIC: *Thesaurus Musicus*, c. 1745

AMERICA
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