



Thank you for participating in worship with First Congregational United Church of Christ/Christ United Methodist Church. We hope your presence in the service is meaningful in the ways you need it to be.

Gathering Music

Greeting and Announcements

Transition to Worship

Prelude

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

arr. Cindy Berry

****Call to Worship - inspired by 1 Peter 1:17-21**

Leader: We call on a God who judges each of us impartially.

All: So let us live our lives as if they are holy, as if they belong to life and not to death.

Leader: We know that it was not with perishable things that we were redeemed from our struggle to acquire power and make ourselves great.

All: That is true. We were not redeemed by that which passes away. We were redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, the innocent and vulnerable One.

Leader: This Christ was chosen before the Creation of the world to be revealed to humanity at just the right time.

All: Through this Christ, we believe in God, who raised him from the dead and brought him glory. Therefore, let us put our faith and hope in God.

Leader: Come, disciples of Christ, together let us worship our God who reveals to us the true nature of the Divine.

Prayer of Invocation

Gracious Creator and Sustainer of all life, we celebrate that being a disciple leads to a vibrant life filled with enthusiastic love and meaningful action. The power of the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead; and so we look around us, hoping to see where the Spirit's power might work through us. We long to see transformed hearts, changed minds, healed relationships, the prosperity of the poor, and the freedom of the captives. We long to experience the end result of our faith: the salvation of our own souls. Transform us as we worship you! Amen.

****Opening Hymn**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

UMH #89



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
 4. Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, bind - ing all with - in its span.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our bro - ther, all who live in love are thine;
 Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day!
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.
 joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward, in the tri - umph song of life.



WORDS: Henry Van Dyke, 1907; st. 4 alt. 1989
 MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. by Edward Hodges, 1864

HYMN TO JOY
 87.87 D

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10 4:8-11 NRSV

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 4:8-11

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Sermon

“Living In Between”

****Hymn of Reflection**

“God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

NCH #531



1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
 3 O fill me with your fullness, God, your
 4 O use me, God, use even me just

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
 ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
 as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
 kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Daughter of the English hymnwriter William H. Havergal, Frances Ridley Havergal was a gifted poet and student of several languages, including Hebrew and Greek. She also composed several hymn tunes. Canonbury was adapted from one of Robert Schumann's piano pieces.

Tune: CANONBURY L.M.
 Arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Spoken Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Leader: Disciples of Christ, we worship a risen Savior! Christ's divine power gives us everything we need to live a godly life. So let us add to our faith, goodness; to our goodness, knowledge; to our knowledge, self-control; to our self-control, perseverance; to our perseverance, godliness; to our godliness, mutual affection; and to our mutual affection, love. These qualities will keep our faith in Christ from being ineffective and unproductive. God's life and love is continually given to us in abundance. This morning, tomorrow, and the next day, let us generously share of our time, talents, and treasures.

**All: "A generous soul will prosper, and he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."
Proverbs 11:25**

Offertory

"Peace Like a River/Amazing Grace"

by Joel Raney

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**Presentation and Doxology

NCH #778

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

**Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, use our gifts to transform the world as you transform our hearts by the discipline of giving. Help us be effective "priests" as we live between the realm of the world and the realm of heaven. We rejoice in your good gifts! We rejoice in new hope and new birth! For Christ's sake, increase our faith! Amen.

Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving - adapted from the Didache, an early Christian church order

We give thanks to you, holy God, Source of Life, for your holy name, which you cause to dwell in our hearts, and for the knowledge, faith, and immortality which you make known to us through Jesus, your Servant. To you be the glory forever.

You, God Almighty, created all things for your name's sake. You give food and drink for all people to enjoy, so that they might give thanks to you; and to us you give spiritual food and drink, and eternal life through your Servant.

Above all, we give thanks to you because you are mighty. To you be the glory forever. Remember, Lord, your church. Deliver it from all evil and make it perfect in your love. Gather it from the four winds, sanctified for your kingdom which you have prepared for it. For yours is the power and the glory forever.

Let grace come, and let this world pass away. Hosanna to the God of David! If anyone is holy, let him come. If anyone is not holy, let him repent. Come, Lord! Amen.

****Closing Hymn**

“God Made from One Blood”

TFWS #2170

1. God made from one blood all the fam - ilies of earth,
 2. We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears
 3. We learn through our fam - ilies how close - ness and trust
 4. Give, Lord, to each fam - ily in con - flict and storm
 5. Then wid - en that wis - dom and grace to in - clude

the cir - cles of nur - ture that raised us from birth,
 for all of the fam - ilies we've known through the years,
 in - crease when our ac - tions are lov - ing and just.
 a sense of your wis - dom and grace that trans - form
 the rac - es and view - points our fam - ilies ex - clude

com - pan - ions who join us to walk through each stage
 the in - ti - mate net - works on whom we de - pend
 Yet fam - ilies have al - so dis - tort - ed their roles,
 sharp an - ger to in - sight which strength - ens the heart
 till peace in each home bears and nur - tures the bud

of child - hood and youth and a - dult - hood and age.
 of par - ent and part - ner and room - mate and friend.
 mis - treat - ing their mem - bers and bruising their souls.
 and makes clear the place where re - build - ing can start.
 of peace shared by all you have made from one blood.

WORDS: Thomas H. Troeger (Acts 17:26)
 MUSIC: Welsh folk melody

ST. DENIO
 11.11.11

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****Benediction**

Postlude “All Creatures of Our God and King”
(*please be seated for the Postlude*)

arr. Victor Labenske

Acknowledgments

Communion liturgy adapted from *The Didache: the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles (Clear, Easy-to-Read Translations with Discussion Guide)*, a part of the Modern Saints series and translated by Peter Northcutt. All other liturgy inspired by the language of 1 and 2 Peter. Pastor Laura often quotes phrases or sentences from the NIV translation of Scripture when preaching. This is not intended as plagiarism but is due to her familiarity with that version of the Bible. Sometimes in storytelling, it may be impossible while listening to differentiate between what is paraphrased and what is quoted. In this service, she plans to visit Mark 1:9-11, 8:31-33, 9:7, 10:35-40, 12:26-27, 1 Peter 1:16, and 2 Peter 1:16-18.

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