



Thank you for participating in worship with United Spirit Community Church, a federation of Christ United Methodist Church and First Congregational United Church of Christ. 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 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" *arr. Glenda Austin*

****Call to Worship –**

Leader: As the deer pants for streams of water,

All: so my soul pants for you, my God.

Leader: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

All: When can I go and meet with God?

Leader: Now. For wherever you go, God is there, waiting to hear the sound of your voice. What will you say to the Holy One?

All: I will approach the Holy One in the name of Jesus. I will bring my requests for Jesus' sake. I will do God's work in the world.

Leader: That is a lofty goal, children of God. Together let us pray to our God who hears us for the sake of Jesus.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God who hears us, we come to you together. Some of us are weary. Others are excited. Some are joyful. Others are sad. Some are healthy. Others are sick. Yet we come to you as one, asking for you to move with your Spirit in our midst to heal, comfort, and energize us. Open our ears to hear your voice. Open our mouths to praise your greatness. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

PSALM 118 C. M.

ZERAH

Lowell Mason

1. The glo - rious gates of right - eous - ness Throw o - pen un - to me,
 2. This is Thy tem - ple - gate, O Lord, The just shall en - ter there;
 3. The stone re - ject - ed and de - spised Is now the cor - ner - stone;
 4. In this the day that Thou hast made Tri - um - phant - ly we sing;
 5. Ho - san - na! Ev - er blest be He That com - eth in God's Name,

And I will en - ter them with praise, O Lord, my God, to Thee,
 My Sav - iour, I - will give Thee thanks, O Thou that hear - est prayer,
 How won - drous are the ways of God, Un - fath - omed and un - known!
 Send now pros - per - i - ty, O Lord, O Lord, sal - va - tion bring,
 The bless - ing of Je - ho - vah's house Up - on you we pro - claim,

And I will en - ter them with praise, O Lord, my God, to Thee.
 My Sav - iour, I will give Thee thanks, O Thou that hear - est prayer.
 How won - drous are the ways of God, Un - fath - omed and un - known!
 Send now pros - per - i - ty, O Lord, O Lord, sal - va - tion bring.
 The bless - ing of Je - ho - vah's house Up - on you we pro - claim.

[Stanzas 9-15]

6 The light of joy to shine on us
 The Lord our God hath made;
 Now be the precious sacrifice
 Upon His altar laid.

7 O Lord, my God, I praise Thy Name,
 All other names above;
 O give Him thanks, for He is good
 And boundless is His love.

2 Sam. 22:9; Ps. 18:8 African-American spiritual

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will
 pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing
Last time, end
 in my heart I will pray. 1 Up - on the moun - tain my God
 2 Oh, Jor - dan riv - er, chil - ly and

Scripture Reading

John 14:12-14, 15:15-17, 16:22-24, 20:30-31

John 14:12-14 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

John 15:15-17 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

John 16:22-24 So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

John 20:30-31 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

All: In these ancient words, let us hear the living word of God today.

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might-y, the King of cre - a -
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign -
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de - fend
 4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nour-ish thy life and re - store
 5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -
 ing bears thee on ea - gle's wings, e'er in his keep - ing main -
 thee; sure - ly his good-ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at -
 thee, fit - ting thee well for the tasks that are ev - er be -
 him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be -

va tion! All ye who hear, now to his tem - ple draw
 tain - ing. God's care en - folds all, whose true good he up -
 tend thee. Pon - der a - new what the Al - might-y can
 fore thee. Then to thy need God as a moth - er doth
 fore him! Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a -

near; join me in glad ad - o - ra tion!
 holds. Hast thou not known his sus - tain - ing?
 do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
 speed, spread - ing the wings of grace o'er thee.
 gain; glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.

WORDS: Joachim Neander, 1680; sts. 1, 3, 5 trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863
 st. 2 by S. Paul Schilling, 1986; st. 4 by Rupert E. Davies, 1983 (Ps. 103:1-6; 150)
 MUSIC: *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. by William Sterndale Bennett, 1864

LOBE DEN HERREN
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Sharing of Joys and Concerns

NCH Psalm 26 Musical Response

Response Antiphon: Elaine Kirkland, 1994

Your steadfast love is before my eyes.

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: Children of God, in Colossians, the writer says, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” This morning, let us give generously in the name of Jesus, for the sake of love and justice, for the sake of truth and mercy, for the good of all Creation.

All: Yes, with our words and our deeds, let us do good in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God the Almighty One.

Offertory

“God of Mercy, God of Grace”

by Jerry Davidson

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****Presentation and Doxology**

Derived from Psalm 117

**Praise our Lord God
All ye nations
All ye people, praise proclaim
For God's grace and lovingkindness
O sing praises to God's name
For the greatness of God's mercy
Constant praise to God accord
Evermore God's truth endureth
Hallelujah, praise the Lord!**

****Prayer of Dedication**

Almighty God who hears us, accept these gifts we return to you. Multiply them to do your work in our world. Take our hearts, and transform them to reflect your glory. Take our lips, and cleanse them to speak only your love into this world. Take our hands, and empower them to do your work. For the sake of Jesus Christ, our hope of glory, we pray, Amen.

****Closing Hymn**

"Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us"

Songs for the Holy Other

Unison F Dm B \flat B \flat /C

1 Je - sus, you have tru - ly called us. Still, to - day, we hear your
 2 Je - sus, save us from poor choic - es. Ha - tred, run - ning like a
 3 Je - sus, save us from our weak - ness, from de - ceit and from de -

F F F/E Dm Dm/C B \flat B \flat /C

voice. Lead us on - ward, lead us up - ward, till all peo - ple can re -
 thread through the fab - ric of our his - t'ry, mars our faith and leaves us
 spair. Move us on to new cre - a - tion in a world that's free and

F *Refrain* Am Am/C Dm Dm/C B \flat

joice.
 dead. Meet us in our time of tri - al, fill us with your Spir - it's
 fair.

B \flat /C C Dm Am/C B \flat F/A Gm7 B \flat /C F

power. As we stand be - fore op - pres - sion, give us cour - age for this hour.

WORDS: Daniel Charles Damon

BEACH SPRING

MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White, *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Daniel Charles Damon

8.7.8.7.Ref.

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****Benediction**

Postlude “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”
(*please be seated for the Postlude*)

music by Anthony Showalter

Acknowledgments

The call to worship contains Psalm 42:1-2; the invitation Colossians 3:16-17. Other liturgy inspired by the language of Colossians, John, and the hymn “Take My Life, and Let it Be.” “Psalm 118: Thoughts for the Sanctuary” from *The Psalter*, a publication of the United Presbyterian Board of Publication in 1912. Psalm 117. 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. All music is part of the public domain or is used with permission by St James Music Press, license No. 29302 and OneLicense, license No. A-727303.