



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 “Open the Eyes of My Heart with Be Thou My Vision” *arr. Mark Hayes*

Greeting and Announcements

Transition to Worship

Prelude “We Gather Together” *arr. Victor Labenske*

****Call to Worship -**

Leader: Here we are, arrived, alive, together on planet Earth; and we wonder, “Who is our Creator? How do we know the One who created us? Is there life beyond what we can touch?”

All: I think there is. I can hear the Divine voice all around me—speaking, speaking, speaking. Never silent. The sound surrounds me.

Leader: Are you sure? How do you know it’s the voice of your Creator? Could it be your own? Could it be the voice of death?

All: No, the grave is silent, and I cannot add a single hour to my life—let alone create it. I know it’s the sound of life, and I can hear its echo.

Leader: What does the voice sound like?

All: Sometimes it’s so quiet I can hardly hear it. I must go to where there are no other voices. I must go to where there are no other things to distract me. I must quiet my lust and my passion. Then, then, that’s when I can hear the gentle whisper of life.

Leader: Come, children of God, together let us worship our God who encourages us in our most weary moments, who quiets our souls, and who gives us peace.

Prayer of Invocation

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. Make us a river of your grace in this world. Let our voices unite in praise to our God. Lead us on a quest to discover the riches of your glorious goodness. Help us live in harmony with your will. May your kingdom come in our midst. In this hour, gather our hearts in unity as we listen for your Spirit's voice. Amen.

**Opening Hymn

"In the Garden"

UMH #314

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone while the dew is
2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the
3. I'd stay in the gar - den with him though the night a -

still on the ros - es, and the voice I hear fall - ing on my ear,
birds hush their sing - ing, and the mel - o - dy that he gave to me
round me be fall - ing, but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe

Refrain
the Son of God dis - clos - es.
with - in my heart is ring - ing. And he walks with me, and he
his voice to me is call - ing.

talks with me, and he tells me I am his own; and the

joy we share as we tar - ry there, none oth - er has ev - er known.

WORDS: C. Austin Miles, 1913 (Jn. 20:11-18)
MUSIC: C. Austin Miles, 1913; adapt. by Charles H. Webb, 1987
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GARDEN
89.557 with Refrain

Children's Message

Sending Song

“Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow”

to the tune of UMH #479

**Wind who makes all winds that blow,
Gusts that bend the sapling low,
Gales that heave the sea in waves,
Stirrings in the mind's deep caves:
Aim your breath with steady power
On your church, this day, this hour.
Raise, renew the life we've lost,
Spirit God of Pentecost.**

Scripture Reading

1 Kings 19:9-13 NLT

There he came to a cave, where he spent the night. But the LORD said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Elijah replied, “I have zealously served the LORD God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.”

“Go out and stand before me on the mountain,” the LORD told him. And as Elijah stood there, the LORD passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

And a voice said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Sermon

“The Voice of God that Whispers”

**Hymn of Reflection

“How Deep the Silence of the Soul”

NCH #509

sung to the melody of “How Deep the Father's Love for Us”

1 How deep the si - lence of the soul that lives with-in your grace.
2 Like un - seen chimes on mov-ing air, like warm and morn-ing sun,

How full the grat - i - tude of heart in your a - bid - ing place.
Like glad-dening, green - ing, grow-ing things, like trees with blooms be - gun.

What rich se - ren - i - ty is found, what cour - age and re - lease
Such is your pres - ence in our lives, you touch with-out a trace,

when wis - dom teach - es us to seek the gen - tle path to peace.
un - til we turn and find our - selves held fast in your em - brace.

This hymn by Sylvia Dunstan, entitled "Morning Meditation," recounts the Canadian writer's experience one February when she left cold, snowy Toronto to visit her mother in California. There she enjoyed meditating in the garden that was abloom with camellias.

Tune: TALLIS' THIRD TUNE C.M.D.
Thomas Tallis, c. 1557
For another key, see 178

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 John's gospel, Jesus promises his followers that rivers of living water will flow from within them. The gospel writer explains that by these rivers Jesus meant the Holy Spirit. We have the opportunity to live in unity with God's Spirit, to discover as disciples what it means to live in harmony with God's will. We have the opportunity to give generously as God has given generously to us. This morning, tomorrow, and the next day, let us give freely.

All: "If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing." I Corinthians 13:1 NIV

Offertory

"Let it Shine!"

by Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Electric City Youth Chorus, directed by Jennifer

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**Presentation and Doxology

UMH #94

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Prayer of Dedication

Spirit of the living God, use our gifts to transform the world as you transform our hearts by the discipline of giving. Help us live as a river of your goodness, and not hoard what you've given to us as if we were instead a lake. Help us live in harmony as disciples on a quest to discover your will. Show us the unity of the Spirit. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

Communion

Communion Music

“Where He Leads Me”

Cindy Berry

**Closing Hymn

“All the Colors of the Rainbow”

Songs for the Holy Other

1. All the co - lours of the rain-bow live un - seen in dai - ly light,
2. All the bo - dy's parts are wan - ted, nor can one de - spise the rest:
3. Ev - ery lang - uage gains more mu - sic when the words for peace ap - pear:
4. Teach us, God, our need of oth - ers; through them help us ful - ly live.

but their splen - dors find ex - pres-sion when re - leased to hu - man sight;
head and hand must work to - get - ther, as must eye and ear and chest;
Pax, Sa - laam, Ei - ri - ni, Hei - wa, Pa - ce, San - ti, Frie den, Mir.
Wean us from our sel - fish hab - its; let us list - en, learn, for - give.

so the church re - veals most beau - ty where di - ver - si - ty is real:
so the church needs all its mem - bers for a range of min - i - stries:
Though our tongues make sounds that va - ry all be - speak a com - mon home:
May we see your longed - for im - age in each hu - man heart and face,

breadth of race and class and gen - der, room for doubt and space to heal.
var - ied gifts with one great mis - sion, “Do this for the least of these.”
long - ing for the end of con - flict and a new life in God's Sha - lom.
and be - hold how those a - round us can be chan - nels of your grace.

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****Benediction**

Postlude

“Just a Closer Walk With Thee”

arr. Stephen Tedesco

(please be seated for the Postlude)

Acknowledgments

Liturgy inspired by the language of John 7:38, Acts 2, Psalm 133, 1 Kings 19, and NCH #283. 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 might visit: 1 Kings 18-19, Psalm 46:10.

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