

Living Table United Church of Christ

January 10, 2021 • First Sunday after Epiphany

Gathering Song

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

1. All glory, laud and honor, to you, O Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.
2. O promised One of Israel, of David's royal line,
the one called "God's beloved," of flesh and yet divine,
to you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
3. As you received their praises receive our prayers today,
whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.
All glory, laud and honor, to you, O Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

Gathering Words

One: Ascribe to God, O heavenly beings, ascribe to God glory and strength.

All: Ascribe to the Holy One the glory of God's name; worship the Almighty in holy splendor.

One: The voice of the Almighty flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Almighty shakes the wilderness; the voice of the Almighty causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in God's temple all say, 'Glory!'

All: May God give strength to God's people!

One: May God bless God's people with peace!

All: Amen!

Gathering Prayer

Holy God, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise. We hear your call to turn toward you, to change our lives and welcome you in. Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your peace. May our worship together open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all.

In the Name of the One who came to show us how to love, we pray. Amen!

Welcome & Announcements

Acknowledging Our Need for God

O God, we hear your voice and we see the way of Jesus set before us. And we say out loud that it is hard to try again and again to live up to our baptismal vows. Maintaining our resolve to be your people in the world is a challenge every day. In repentance, we ask you to forgive us. Set us once again on a holy path that leads to you.

Silent Prayer

Words of Promise

One: Friends, God hears our prayers and sets before us the way of Jesus.

All: God calls us and gives us enough grace and mercy to begin each day anew. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Song of Centering

“Spirit, I Have Heard You Calling”

1. Spirit, I have heard you calling, like a memory long grown dim,
Crying from creation's moment, seeking voice from deep within.
I have heard you in my longing. I have heard you in my pain.
Now I feel you moving in me, feel you burning like a flame.

2. Now I see you all around me, now I hear you call my name.
Now I speak the words you give me, now I feed creation's flame.
You are speaking through my longing. You are speaking through my pain.
Now I feel you moving in me, and I'll never be the same.

3. Since you moved upon my waters, since you spoke and set me free,
I have yearned for this communion, for your fire inside of me!
Now your love defines my longing. Now your love shines through my pain.
Now we dance in endless union, singing out creation's name!

Children's Message

Thoughts of the People

Arnold Bennett

The chief beauty about time
is that you cannot waste it in advance.
The next year, the next day, the next hour are lying ready for you,
as perfect, as unspoiled,
as if you had never wasted or misapplied
a single moment in all your life.
You can turn over a new leaf every hour
if you choose.

Sacred Reading

Mark 1:4-11

John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Child, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Message

Whom do We Please?
Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe

Song of Reflection

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place, and I know that it's the spirit of our God;
There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of our God.
Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove, Stay right here with us, filling us with your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise.
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Jesus

J. Manny Santiago

Our Parent, who is among us, blessed be your Creation.
May your reign be a reality here on earth.
May we become more interested in building your kin-dom here and now than in waiting for it to come down from above.
Let us share our bread with those who hunger.
Let us learn to forgive as well as to receive forgiveness.
Help us through the time of temptation, delivering us from all evil.
For ours are the eternal blessings that you pour upon the earth.
Amen.

Offering

Offertory

Presentation of Gifts

"The Doxology"

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

The Great Thanksgiving

One: May the Creator of heaven and earth be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: People of God, lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the one who gives love to heal us.

One: Let us give thanks to the One who made everything and called it 'good'.

All: How right it is to give our thanks and praise to the one who calls us 'Beloved.'

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

(...) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Song of Praise

"Holy (Joyful Heart)"

Holy, holy, holy to the God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blest is the One who comes in the name of God, in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

We Remember

One: On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said:

**All: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."**

One: When the supper was over Jesus took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said:

**All: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you, for forgiveness. Do this in remembrance of me."**

**Holy Spirit, come into this bread and this cup. Transform these ordinary objects as
you change our hearts to shape and form your world with the joy you promise. Pour
your grace upon us, so we overflow with your love. Amen.**

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Holy One, we thank you for the broken bread which breaks us open to your Spirit being
made manifest among us. We thank you for the cup poured out which inspires us to pour
out ourselves in generosity to the world.**

**Generous God, we thank you that you have blessed our world with such diversity. Send
us from this shared table that we might spread the good news of your love and care to all.
Amen.**

Communion Song

"If We Are the Body"

It's crowded in worship today
As she slips in trying to fade into the faces
The girls' teasing laughter is carrying
Farther than they know, farther than they know

Refrain: But if we are the body Why aren't our arms reaching?
Why aren't our hands healing? Why aren't our words teaching?
And if we are the body Why aren't our feet going?
Why is our love not showing them there is a way? There is a way.

A traveler is far away from home
He sheds his coat and quietly sinks into the back row
The weight of their judgmental glances
Tells him that his chances are better out on the road

Refrain

Jesus paid much too high a price

For us to pick and choose who should come
And we are the body of Christ

Refrain

Words of Sending

One: May the path that Christ walks to bring justice upon the earth,

All: to bring light to those who sit in darkness,

One: to bring out those who live in bondage,

All: to bring new things to all creation:

One: may this path run through our life.

All: May we be the road Christ takes.

Song of Sending

"Reignite the Revolution"

Refrain: Reignite the revolution. Reclaim the work that Jesus began. Reignite the revolution.

We know the way to live in this world. There is a way to serve all creation.

We have been called to forge sacred peace. Start to begin again. Start and begin again.

1. When you look at me what do you see? Do you recognize the holy in me or only in you?
Why does the color of my skin make you forget we are sacred kin? Jesus would see me.

Refrain

2. Why does the sound of my voice make fear the easy choice?

Do the clothes I need to wear make me the other to you?

What about my existence fuels such hate in an instant?

Jesus would know me.

Refrain

Bridge: Stop being fooled by fame and fortune. All that glitters is not gold.

Live the unity Jesus' life undeniably told. Release your fear and let your life be grace extolled.

Reclaim! Reframe! Christian! Reclaim and reframe "Christian." Get back to love.

3. Jesus broke tradition to improve the human condition.

Reached through social barriers to re-member all forgotten.

Challenged those in power – Rebellion ev'ry hour. Why do we forget?

Refrain

Start to begin again. Start and begin again.

Benediction

Contact Us

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