

## Living Table United Church of Christ

September 13, 2020 • Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

### **Gathering Song**

“Canticle of the Sun” vs. 1, 2, 4, & 5

*Refrain:* The heavens are telling the glory of God, and all creation is shouting for joy.

Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field, and sing, sing to the glory of our God.

1. Praise for the sun, the bringer of day, it carries the light of God in its rays;  
the moon and the stars who light up the way unto your throne.

*Refrain*

2. Praise for the wind that blows through the trees,  
the sea's mighty storms, the gentlest breeze;  
they blow where they will, they blow where they please to please our God.

*Refrain*

4. Praise for the fire who gives us its light, the warmth of the sun to brighten our night;  
it dances with joy, its spirit so bright, it sings of you.

*Refrain*

5. Praise for the earth, who makes life to grow, the creatures you made to let your life show;  
the flowers and trees that help us to know the Heart of Love.

*Refrain*

### **Gathering Words**

One: The Holy One is here in this community of faith:

**All: Great is our God and greatly to be praised!**

One: Let us bless the Holy Name forever and ever.

**All: Great is our God and greatly to be praised!**

One: Let us meditate on God's wondrous works.

**All: Great is our God and greatly to be praised!**

One: Let us bless and praise God's name forever and ever

**All: Great is our God and greatly to be praised!**

### **Gathering Prayer**

Holy One, you have promised to be with us. Long ago you sent your Spirit to abide among us and guide us to a future of goodness and hope. We come seeking your truth, your justice, your kindness. O God, you are with us this morning, drawing us together even though we are spread across miles. Let us feel your presence and welcome you into our lives anew. Come and fill these desires of our hearts. Amen.

### **Welcome & Announcements**

### **Acknowledging Our Need for God**

One: Most of us continue to believe that we must earn our way into God's heart. The truth is that God's grace is given to each of us, to all people, for all of us, freely, unconditionally, always. Let us open our lives to this mercy as we pray together.

**All: It seems we cannot decide, Cloud of Glory. We say we will live to serve others and often end up meeting only our needs. We claim to live in a way that honors all that Jesus taught and yet we do not follow him all the time or everywhere. We frequently act as if faith only matters when we are gathered as church. Strengthen us. Grant us courage that we may carry your wisdom and mercy into every aspect of our lives – at work, at play, alone, in groups, on social media, at the polls. Let us be faith-filled everywhere.**

**Forgive us, Presence of Peace. Instead of grumblers, may we be ambassadors of grace. Instead of continual complaining, may we carry compassion to the hurting. Instead of whiners, may we be workers with Jesus to reach out and bring the kin-dom of God to everyone we meet.**

### *Moments of Silent Reflection*

#### ***Words of Promise***

One: This is the good news: there is no hierarchy in God's realm.

**All: God graces everyone with the same gifts: mercy, restoration, new life.**

One: God has kept the covenant.

**All: We have been forgiven; we have been made new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

#### ***Sharing the Peace***

#### ***Song of Centering***

“A Shield About Me”

You, O God, are a shield about me. You're the Glory, you're the lifter of my head. (repeat)

*Refrain:* Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! You're the lifter of my head. (repeat)

*Repeat*

#### ***Children's Sermon***

#### ***Thoughts of the People***

Francis Frangipane

Beloved, I say, let your fears go, lest they make you fainthearted. Stop inspiring fear in those around you and now take your stand in faith. God has been good and [God] will continue to manifest [God's] goodness. Let us approach these days expecting to see the goodness of the [the Holy One] to manifest. Let us be strong and of good courage, for the [Almighty] will fight for us if we stand in faith.

#### ***Sacred Reading***

Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Almighty in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Almighty said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Almighty who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Almighty, because the Holy One has heard your complaining against the Almighty. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Almighty gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Almighty has heard the complaining that you utter against the Holy One--what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Almighty."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Almighty, for the Holy One has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Almighty appeared in the cloud. The Almighty spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Almighty your God.'" In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Almighty has given you to eat."

### **Message**

Regrets, Reality, and Revelations  
Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe

### **Song of Reflection**

"With a Shepherd's Care"

*Refrain:* With a shepherd's care, God leads us.  
With a father's strength, God guides us.  
With a mother's love, God nurtures us,  
And cradles us in gentle arms

1. When we are lost, and cannot find the way,  
God cares for us and keeps us safe.  
For God is our light and our faithful guide,  
And leads us with a shepherd's care.

### *Refrain*

2. When we are weak, and cares press all around,  
God strengthens us to face each day.  
For God is our rock and our saving help,  
And guides us with a mother's strength.

### *Refrain*

3. When we are scared, and feel so all alone,  
God love us and is by our side.  
For God is our hope and our constant friend,  
And nurtures with a father's love.

### ***Prayers of the People***

#### ***Pastoral Prayer***

##### ***Prayer of Jesus***

<https://www.manyvoices.org/blog/resource/contemporary-lords-prayer/>

**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***

“Lead Us to Your Table”

Lead us to your table, feed us for the journey, bind us all together, bless us, now we pray.

Lead us to communion, be our hope and vision; we will be your presence in the world today.

##### ***Prayer of Dedication***

#### ***The Great Thanksgiving***

One: May the exalted One be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

One: Open your hearts to the One who knows you by name.

**All: We offer ourselves to the One who is always with us.**

One: Give thanks to God, all of you, in prayer and song, in silence and service.

**All: We sing to the One who calls us to worship.**

One: Holy and Honest God:

in establishing all that is beautiful and joyful,

your glory banished chaos

and your goodness warmed all creation.

(...)

Therefore, we join our voices with all your people

in every age, time, and place, who forever sing your praises:

#### ***Song of Praise***

“You Are Holy”

You are holy, you are whole. You are always evermore than we ever understand.

You are always at hand. Blessed are you, coming near.

Blessed are you, coming here to your church in wine and bread,  
raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness; you are present. Let the cosmos praise your name!  
Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna evermore! (*repeat*)

### ***We Remember***

One: Great Giver of Joy:

(...)“Take and eat. This is my body broken for you.”

**All: When we eat this bread, we trust that our brokenness will be made whole, and we promise to be agents of healing in the world.**

One: After they had eaten, Jesus took the cup and held it to them saying, “Take and drink, for this is the cup of the new covenant poured out for forgiveness.”

**All: When we drink this cup, we accept God’s forgiveness and promise to be agents of hope in the world.**

One: Let us pray together:

**All: Holy God, pour out your Spirit of welcome on the gifts of bread and cup. As we eat, strengthen us to go out and serve in many neighborhoods. As we drink, nourish us with faith and hope enough to share with those who thirst for goodness and life. We pray in the name of the One at whose table we gather. Amen.**

### ***Sharing the Elements***

#### ***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

**Holy One, whose covenant of love gives us abundant life, we thank you for joining us together in this community. We thank you for the new and creative ways we can gather to worship you and come to your table. May the bread we eat and the cup we drink renew us and strengthen us for the work of love you set before us. In gratitude we pray. Amen.**

#### ***Communion Song***

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

*Refrain:* Take my life and let it be consecrated, God, to thee.

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

1. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

*Refrain*

2. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use every power as thou shall choose.

*Refrain*

3. Take my voice and let me sing, let my song of praise take wing.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

*Refrain*

4. Take my will, thy will be done! May thy will and mine be one.  
Take my heart, and by thy grace, make of it thy dwelling place.

*Refrain*

5. Take my life and let it be consecrated, God, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

***Words of Sending***

One: Go now to share the love of God.

**All: We will share it with childish abandon.**

One: Go now to share the grace of Jesus.

**All: We will offer this gift, fresh every morning, to all we meet.**

One: Go now to share the generosity of the Holy Spirit.

**All: We will hold nothing back from anyone we encounter.**

***Song of Sending***

“Hear the Songs of Thanks We Raise”

1. Hear the songs of thanks we raise, God of earth and space and star.

Hear our voices blend to praise who you were and who you are:  
God of power, God of grace, You have richly blessed this place.

2. Here a welcome waits for all, Food for body, mind and soul.  
Talk and laughter fill each hall, Thought and silence have their role:  
God of mercy, God of grace, You have richly blessed this place.

3. Men and women, girls and boys, meet new cultures, friends, and art,  
Sing your praises, share life's joys, find a language, heart to heart:  
God of wonder, God of grace, You have richly blessed this place.

4. Open spaces, open doors, Open windows, open minds,  
Open air where birdsong soars, Open people of all kinds:  
God of beauty, God of grace, You have richly blessed this place.

***Benediction***

**Contact Us**

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