

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

Open and Affirming of ALL God's Children



May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

+ Silent Prayer

Generous God, thank you for the gift of this new day. Help me to watch for your signs and wonders in the world today, and fill my heart with gladness and generosity, that I may generate good will wherever I go. Amen.

Prelude

Prelude in D flat

Chopin

Introit

For the Beauty of the Earth (vs. 1 & 2)

black #28

*For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to your we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to your we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

+ Call to Worship

One: Sisters and brothers, let us gather together with glad and generous hearts.

All: For many signs and wonders are being done among us.

One: Let us break bread together and share our lives in common.

All: Let us give what we can to all who have needs so that all people, no matter who they are, may regard us with good will.

One: Let us devote ourselves to our prayers and to the gospel.

All: For in this way God will add to our numbers every day.

Hymn *My Shepherd You Supply My Need* (Pat Summerer and Barbara Reeve) red #88

*My Shepherd, You supply my need; most holy is your name;
In pastures fresh you make me feed, beside the living stream.
You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways;
You lead me, for your mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.*

*When I walk through the shades of death; your presence is my stay;
One word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.*

*Your sure provisions, gracious God; attend me all my day;
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.*

++ Invocation (Unison)

Incarnate God, You are the one who comes to us in Jesus Christ.

Holy One, You are the one who comes to us in the Holy Spirit.

Sovereign of Earth and Heaven, You are the one who calls us to
recognize you today and every day as the splendid *mysterium tremendum*.

Gather our hearts and minds this day. Kindle our God-consciousness.

Let us worship you in awe and wonder!

Children's Message

Godly Play

Pat Shannon

OT Lesson

Psalm 23

Special Music

Arabian Improv

Caleb Edwards

Message –

Rev. TJ Mack

Musical Interlude

Martyrdom

Arr. Burroughs

Prayers of the People

Sharing Joys & Concerns

+ Pastoral/Community Prayers

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Choral Response

Lead Me Lord

red #271

*Lead me Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou Lord, thou Lord, only,
that makest me dwell in safety.*

+Invitation to Offering

Church, our God has prepared a table before us and our cup overflows. So let us give generously from our common wealth, as our way of praising God and giving to those in need.

Musical Interlude

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Arr. Heastings

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving / Dedication (Unison)

Holy and generous God, you have anointed us and we are yours.

Bless these tithes and offerings that they may become green pastures and still waters for any and all who need your comfort and restoration. **Amen.**

Hymn

Blessed Assurance

(Pat Summerer and Barbara Reeve)

black #473

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.*

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission; perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst into sight; Angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain:

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blessed; watching and waiting, looking above, filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

Refrain:

+++ The Lord's Supper

Invitation to Communion

Leader: For Holy Communion this morning, I invite you to lend Christ your table.

Prayer of Consecration

Leader: We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though we are many throughout the earth and this church community is scattered, we are one in Christ. In your many kitchens, and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God's blessing upon them.

Words of Remembering

Leader: We remember the night when Jesus gathered at a table with his friends in a time of struggle and fear, he took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them saying "Take and eat: for this is my body." And after supper, as Jesus looked forward to the desired day of joy and power; he took the cup, again gave God thanks and praise and said "Take this, all of you, and drink. This is the cup of the new covenant, my life poured out for you. I will drink this with you again in the reign of God. Share this bread and this cup in memory of me."

Blessing the Elements

Eternal God, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and juice, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore us with your grace that makes all things new.

Sharing of the Elements

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

Unison: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

Unison: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that, by the very method of our worship, we have embodied the truth that Christ's love is not limited by buildings made with human hands, nor contained in human ceremonies, but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.

Unison: Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope. Wrap your presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge for all the world. Amen

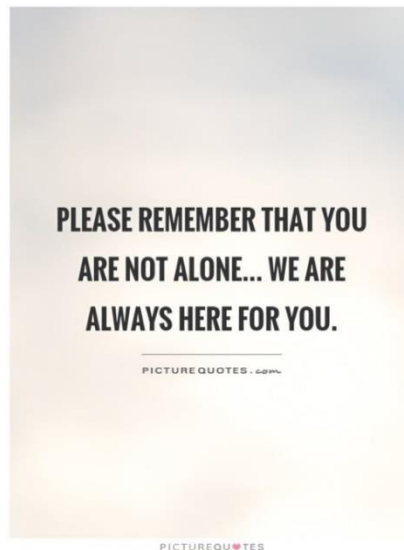
Passing of the Peace (ASL)

Benediction

Postlude

Mazurka in F

Chopin



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Union Congregational Church

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Attention: Treasurer

+ Feasting on the Word resources, adapted
++ Worship Ways, adapted
+++ Maren Tirabassi <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/>, adapted

Many thanks to those who helped make this service possible – in front of the camera and behind the scenes.

Deb Riley – Music Minister
Barabara Reeve & Pat Summerer – Vocalists
Pat Shannon – Children’s Message
Caleb Edwards – Guest Musician
Cynthia Wood – Graphics Minister
Jennifer Ashmore – Technology Minister
TJ Mack – Settled Minister
Vicky Espling – Office Secretary
You – Our Virtual Congregation

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