

ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 10, 2021

10:00 AM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether David Laskey
(b. 1957)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God.

People: Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God. Whoever not love does not know God, for God is love.¹

*HYMN 22 (blue) All Creatures of Our God and King

1. All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing;
Alleluia, Alleluia! O burning Sun with golden beam,
O silver moon with softer gleam,

Refrain: O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

2. O rushing wind with voice so strong, you clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise God, Alleluia!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice, you lights of evening find a voice,

Refrain

3. O flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your God to hear,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
O blazing fire who lights the night, providing warmth, enhancing sight,

Refrain

4. And all forgiven tender hearts, forgiving others, take your part,
sing praises. Alleluia!
You who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God, who knows your ev'ry care.

Refrain

*INVOCATION (in unison)

Eternal God, companion of all who seek you,
and seeker of all who turn away from you,
draw near to us that we may draw near to you,
and grant us the grace to love and serve you
that we may find in your will our true freedom;
through Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 18:15-20
"Forgiveness and Reconciliation in the Beloved Community"

SERMON Rev. Richard Slater

CHORAL ANTHEM For Where Love Is, There Is God

SERVICE OF STEWARDSHIP

The Giving of Our Gifts

Interlude *Allegro semplice* Edvard Greig
(1843-1907)

*Doxology Hymn 515 (red) and Prayer of Dedication

*COMMUNION HYMN 392 (blue) Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

1. Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name,
two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now your garment's hem.
2. As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia, Alleluia, so now bind our friendship up.
3. All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia, Alleluia, we will serve with faith anew.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (insert)

*HYMN 108 (blue) Lift High the Cross of Christ

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.

Refrain

2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.

Refrain

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally.

Refrain

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the crucified for victory.

Refrain

*COMMISSION

Leader: As we go out to be the body of Christ in the world,
let us remember the three great loves to which our faith calls.

People: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself; and love and care for the earth and all that dwells therein."

*BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE Lift High the Cross Roberta Rowland-Raybold
(b. 1938)

**You are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

¹The Call to Worship and Prayers in this service are reprinted from *Book of Worship* ©1986 by permission of the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

All: Merciful God, we know that you love us and that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy. Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing. Forgive our willful neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the needs of others, and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

INVITATION

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE STORY

COMMUNION PRAYER with Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

SANCTUS (Sung in Unison)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea!

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

Blessed is Christ who comes to set us free.

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Leader: This is the bread of heaven, the body of Christ, broken for you. Take and eat.

People: Amen.

Leader: This is the cup of blessing, the life of Christ, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Drink of it, all of you.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (In Unison)

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

MATTHEW 18:15-20

15 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. 18Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. <http://nrsvbibles.org>