

Order of Worship

May 6, 2018 — Sixth Sunday of Easter; Peace Sunday

*Please stand ... in body or in spirit, as you are comfortable.

Bold words are spoken in unison

Bold Italics are words sung in unison

We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it."

~ Madeline L'Engle

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE BEGIN OUR WORSHIP

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

Panis Angelicus

Franck

Jason Aquila, Organist

ENTRANCE OF LIGHT OF CHRIST, a symbol of Jesus' presence

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Here today there is love, freely available to all. Not our human loving, fragile and intermittent, but God's supreme love.

Many: May a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, break forth into joyous songs of praise.

One: Here today is love, higher than our loftiest hopes, deeper than the immensities of time and space, God's inclusive love.

Many: Let the seas roar their praise, and everything in them. Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills sing together their happiness.

One: The joy of the living Christ Jesus be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)

God, you have done marvelous things and you deserve our praise. We have received the gift of your presence in this time of communion, and your Spirit has opened our hearts to the outpouring of your love. Keep our hearts open in the days ahead so that when we have the opportunity to love others, we will recognize in it the opportunity to love you. Amen.

*WE SING TOGETHER

No. 503

O Savior, Let Me Walk with You

THE PASTOR OFFERS FINAL WORDS AND A BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Arr. Hayes

Jason Aquila, Organist

DEPART TO BE THE LOVE OF GOD IN THE WORLD

Call to Worship from Bruce Prewer, Uniting Church in Australia; Prayer of Invocation from UCC Worship Ways; Prayer of Confession from pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.

SPECIAL THANKS THIS MORNING:

Acolytes: Graham and Nola Foote

Flowers and Bulletins: This morning's altar flowers are sponsored by Dave and Sandy Evans, in thanks for Sandy's cousin Brian Rattray, and his return to health. Today's bulletins are sponsored by John and Ruth Michelich in recognition of May 6 as Peace Sunday.

Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ

is an Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation.

All are Welcome!

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*WE SING TOGETHER

No. 332

As We Gather at Your Table

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

(All are welcome to participate in communion which will be served in the pews. Following the communion prayer, the plates will be passed. Please take a piece of bread or gluten-free bread and hold it until all have been served. We will then take communion together. Likewise the grape juice will be passed and we will all partake together.)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND PRAYER OF COMMUNION

The Rev. Michael D. Schuenemeyer

Pastor: God's table of grace is set and is open to all with the promise of the Living Christ among us. Come, not because you must, but because you may. Come, not because you are perfect or fulfilled, but because in the places where you feel broken, you are ready to receive assurance of God's grace. Come and remember with this holy mystery that God has walked among us and shared our common lot. Come and recognize the risen Christ with and among us.

People: We are ready to remember!

Pastor: In this bread and in this cup, divine mystery meets spiritual hunger. No matter how long we have wandered, here our hearts find something of a home. Because in Christ, God has welcomed each of us to this table.

People: Because God satisfies our hunger in the most unlikely times and places.

Pastor: It is with this expectation that we come to the table to taste and see the God who commanded us to love, at this table of grace. Let us pray ...

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

SHARING THE MEAL

*WE SING TOGETHER

No. 495

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

*WE PRAY TOGETHER

Let us pray together:

Come, Lamb of God, light our path as we gather today. Open the gates of our minds and our hearts that your word may penetrate to the depth of our being. Lead us to the river of the water of life and refresh us for the work you have set for us. Sit us down under the tree of life and let us rejoice in the diversity of its fruit and witness to the healing of nations. Show us your glory, Sovereign One, as we come to worship you. Amen.

*WE SING PRAISE TO GOD

***Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,
Three in One; as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE LISTEN FOR OUR STILL-SPEAKING GOD

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Pastor Brooke

(Following these moments, our children recess to their Sunday Morning Program. Our nursery is available for infants, and there is a lounge opposite the sanctuary where the service may be heard. You may wish to join in blessing the children as they go by singing:)

***Go now in peace; go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
ev'-ry-where, ev'-ry-where you ... may ... go.***

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHANCEL CHOIR

Peace is Our Prayer

Shackley

Carol Peddie, Director

TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, our lives are ever open to your Spirit. You know us better than we know ourselves. Our thoughts are known to you before we think them and our words are already in your ear before we speak. O merciful God, we acknowledge that we have often spoken without thinking and have hurt those you have commanded us to love. We have closed our hearts when they should be open and withheld compassion when we should have cared. O give us grace to live according to the commandment of your love and cleanse our hearts today from all wrong. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Do you feel it — there, deep down in your hearts?
God's love is alive, beating, breathing — in you!

Many: Because God abides in us, we can live for others, allowing God's love to bear fruit in us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCRIPTURES

Psalm 98 (NRSV, p. 540)
1 John 5:1-6 (NRSV p.1112)

Our God is still speaking:
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOSPEL

John 15:9-17 (The Inclusive Language Bible)

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

A Job Promotion
Pastor R. Brooke Baker

WE RESPOND TO OUR STILL-SPEAKING GOD

THE PASTOR'S PRAYER

WE PRAY TOGETHER THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

Our Father (God), 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

WE OFFER OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN GRATITUDE TO GOD

Invitation and Offering

We look around at the bounty of God's creation and give thanks. All that we have and all that we are is a gift from the author of generosity. May we be as generous, that the work of this ministry will be a blessing to others.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

O For the Wings of a Dove
Mendelssohn
Jason Aquila, Organist

*WE SING OUR SONG OF PRAISE

No. 780

***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.***

*WE DEDICATE OUR LIVES AND GIFTS

Let us pray together:

We come before you again to ask a blessing, God of Grace, not only on seed and soil but on our tithes and offerings. Bless and multiply these gifts that your abundance might be recognized in this place and beyond its gate. May the fruits of our labors strengthen your church and truly be for the healing of the nations. Amen.