

# Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ

## Order of Worship

September 16, 2018 — MISSION 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***

*Those who aren't following Jesus aren't his followers. It's that simple. Followers follow, and those who don't follow aren't followers. To follow Jesus means to follow Jesus into a society where justice rules, where love shapes everything. To follow Jesus means to take up his dream and work for it.*

*~ Scot McKnight*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WE BEGIN OUR WORSHIP

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

*Give Praise to Christ Jesus*

J. S. Bach

*Jason Aquila, Organist*

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Today we sabbath, we take rest in the Lord our God.

**Many: We put aside productivity to wonder and worship.**

One: Today we sabbath, to do a different kind of work.

**Many: We have gathered to do liturgy, the work of the people.**

One: Today we sabbath, for the world does not revolve around us.

**Many: We revolve around God and God's goodness and grace.**

**All: Come, let us worship God!**

\*WE SING TOGETHER

No. 191

*Before Your Cross, O Jesus*

### THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER

#### Today, Sept. 16

Mission Sunday

#### Monday, Sept. 17

Yoga 11:15 a.m.

Leadership Team, 7:15 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Sept. 18

Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

#### Wednesday, Sept. 19

Bells, 7 p.m.; Choir, 8 p.m.

#### Thursday, Sept. 20

Dinner at Mahle's 5 p.m.

Coffee Tea and Pastor B 7 p.m.

Erie Island Coffee, Rocky River

*(See story below on both!)*

#### Sunday, Sept. 23

18th Sunday after Pentecost

### SPECIAL THANKS

**Liturgist: Janet Kramer**

**Flowers and Bulletins:** Today's flowers and bulletins are sponsored by the Legacy Committee in honor of Mission Sunday.

### JOIN US FOR DINNER AND DESSERT!

The next **Thursday evening meal gathering will be Sept. 20 at 5 p.m. at Mahle's, 24945 Detroit Road in Westlake.**

The first **evening gathering of Coffee, Tea, and Pastor B is also Sept. 20, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Erie Island Coffee, 19300 Detroit Rd. in Rocky River;** parking is in the Beachcliff Theater shopping area lots.

Sign up for the dinner at Mahle's or just show up at Erie Island for dessert ... or do both! Make an entertaining evening of it — join us for dinner, then for coffee (or tea) and dessert! See you there!

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS** Redeemer is holding a **blessing of the animals on Saturday, Oct. 6, in front of the church (or in Fellowship Hall in case of rain) at 10 a.m.** You are invited to bring your pets in cages, on leashes (if they are well behaved), in bowls, or aquariums. Pastor Brooke will offer a short blessing for each animal present. "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small. The Lord God made them all."

WE OFFER OUR LIVES AND GIFTS IN GRATITUDE TO GOD

Invitation and Offering

We are called to listen to the words of wisdom and to respond with our whole lives. Let us give thanks to God with all that we are and all that we have — in word, thought, and action.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Prayer*  
De Breville  
*Jason Aquila, Organist*

\*WE SING OUR SONG OF PRAISE

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Christ all creatures here below.  
Praise Holy Spirit, comforter.  
One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.***

\*WE DEDICATE OUR LIVES AND GIFTS

Let us pray together:

**Gracious God and source of all good gifts, thank you for the resources in our lives, in our community and in our nation. Thank you for all that we share today to make our lives, our community and our nation more welcoming. Bless us in our continued ministries that seek your peace and justice. Amen.**

\*WE SING TOGETHER

No. 76

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

THE PASTOR OFFERS FINAL WORDS AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

*Voluntary in D*  
Scarlatti  
*Jason Aquila, Organist*

**DEPART TO BE THE LOVE OF GOD IN THE WORLD**

**TODAY's WORSHIP:** *Call to Worship from stephenmfearing.com; Prayer of Invocation from UCC Worship Ways; Prayer for our Missions adapted from Rebecca Sutton; Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance from lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com; Call to offering from ministrymatters.com; Offertory prayer from UCC Liturgy for Just Peace Sunday.*

\*WE PRAY TOGETHER

**Holy Wisdom of God,**

**You call to us from the depths of our hearts, where we long for connection with you and with one another.**

**You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods, where human pain and possibility are most urgent.**

**You call to us from our sacred stories, where God, Christ, Spirit create, challenge, comfort.**

**Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and help us see with your eyes the ways which lead to beloved community where Christ Jesus is at the center. 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

*Margaret Borrelli, Faith Formation Minister*

*(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

*Jesus! High and Holy One*

McDonald

*Carol Peddie, Music Director*

PRAYER FOR OUR MISSIONS

ONE: Pray for those who are hungry.

**MANY: Pray harder for those who will not feed them.**

ONE: Pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills.  
**MANY: Pray harder for those who do not care.**  
 ONE: Pray for those who are homeless.  
**MANY: Pray harder for those who deny them shelter.**  
 ONE: Pray for the sick and lonely.  
**MANY: Pray harder for those who will not give them comfort.**  
 ONE: Pray for those who cry out for dignity.  
**MANY: Pray harder for those who will not listen.**  
 ONE: Pray for those oppressed by unjust wages.  
**MANY: Pray harder for those who exploit them.**  
 ONE: Pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice.  
**MANY: Pray harder for those who discriminate against them.**  
 ONE: Pray for those whose basic needs are denied.  
**MANY: Pray harder for those who cater to the greedy and ignore those bound unjustly. Amen.**

#### TIME OF CONFESSION

##### Call to Confession

What are folks saying about us? Do they mention our kindness, or how hard we are on others; do they speak of our love, or about our selfishness? God invites us to follow Jesus and reflect him in our lives. Join me, as we confess how we have not done so, and let us begin with a time of silent confession.

##### Prayer of Confession

**All we need to do is open our mouths, Teacher of hearts, to show that we give our tongues free rein. We claim we love others, but speak bitter words to them. We think we are good and gracious people, but hurl epithets at those we do not like, or those we fear. We are quicker to speak of judgment for others, rather than being voices for justice. But with your gracious mercy, tender-hearted God, you can put out the wildfires of bitterness sparked by our words. You can stop the words on the tips of our tongues**

**and transform them into whispers of peace and love. You can open our ears so that we can hear all that your Teacher of grace and hope, Jesus the Messiah, has to share with us, in these moments and all those to come. Amen.**

##### Words of Assurance

Can we handle it — the good news; the fact that God's grace can transform us; that God can teach us new songs; that God can fill us with hope and joy? It is hard to believe, which may be why it is hard to accept it. But God loves us, God has mercy on us, God is with us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

##### MESSAGE FROM OUR SCRIPTURES

*Proverbs 1:20-33 (NRSV, p. 573)*  
*Isaiah 50:4-9a (CEB)*

Our God is still speaking:  
**Thanks be to God.**

##### MESSAGE FROM THE GOSPEL

*Mark 8:27-38 (CEB)*

##### MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

*That's a Heavy Cross*  
 Pastor R. Brooke Baker

#### **WE RESPOND TO OUR STILL-SPEAKING GOD**

##### WE SING TOGETHER

No. 504

*You Walk Along Our Shoreline*

##### THE PASTOR'S PRAYER

##### WE PRAY TOGETHER AS 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.**