



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP *with UCC Westerly*

Open aNd Affirming SUNDAY!

June 27, 2021 @ 9:45am

In-person &

Broadcast live from our sanctuary

CCLI Streaming License #21022154

Gathering Music A selection by Doug Brummund. [WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2020 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE – “Meditation on ‘O Waly Waly’”

[MUSIC: Colin Curtis, on a traditional English melody, ©2001 The Lorenz Publishing Company, Used by Permission. CCLI Copyright License 21022161]

DEACON'S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

[from *Before the Amen*, Tirabassi & Tirabassi, Eds., ©2007 The Pilgrim Press, p. 207]

In caring and compassion, God's arms hold us when we are weak. With ideas and inspiration, God pushes us to grow and thrive. With divine generosity, God shares all creation with us. God calls us as partners to build a world of hope and joy. Let us join our hearts, hands, and voices with people the world over in praise, thanksgiving and commitment to our one, our glorious, our amazing God.

OPENING SONG -- “Help Us Accept Each Other

[WORDS: Fred Kaan ©1975 Hope Publishing Company & MUSIC: John Ness Beck ©1977 Hope Publishing Company. Used by Permission. CCLI Copyright License 21022161, *Worship & Rejoice* #596]

1. *Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.*
2. *Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them, or as they may become.*
3. *Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!*

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[from *Before the Amen*, Tirabassi & Tirabassi, Eds., ©2007 The Pilgrim Press, p. 216]

God who knows all and loves all, see us as we come together this morning in a rainbow of hope and love. Ease our fears, because we acknowledge we gather in fear and trembling for the new world we seek to reveal. Help us to live into our commitment to welcome people of every nation, every walk of life, every ethnic community, every state of wellness or ill health, every Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning individual because all are beloved of yours. Empower us to live out our commitment that no one is excluded from Christ's Table here in this, Christ's church. Embolden us to share the love of God boldly with all, celebrating that we are all one in the Spirit. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE –

Scripture Reading: Acts 8:26-38

Message – *Rainbow Ready*

Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music: “They’ll Know We Are Christians”

[MUSIC: Peter Scholtes©1967 by F.E.I. Publications, assigned 1991 to Lorenz Publishing Company., Used by Permission. CCLI Copyright License 21022161]

A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayers

The Lord's Prayer in whatever words are most comfortable for you.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Melissa Stratton, Soloist

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings*

Doxology: [©Public Domain]

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.”

CLOSING SONG -- “Be Still, My Soul”

[WORDS: Katherina von Schlegel; tr. Jane L. Borthwick & MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, ©1933, ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Education (Admin. Westminster John Knox Press), Used by Permission. CCLI Copyright License 21022161, *Worship & Rejoice* #451]

- 1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side! Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to order and provide – In every change he faithful will remain. Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend through thorny ways Leads to a joyful end.*
- 2. Be still, my soul: your God will undertake to guide the future as he has the past; Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake – all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION—

[from *Before the Amen*, Tirabassi & Tirabassi, Eds., ©2007 The Pilgrim Press, p. 218]

May the God of the rainbow bless and fill us with hope, strength, joy, and peace as we go forth to do the work of love in the world. Never forget that as we open our hearts and affirm our love,

God is with us, now and forever, and Jesus walks beside us on our journey. Walk gently and in peace, friends in Christ. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE – “Postlude”

[MUSIC: Francois Couperin, arranged by Todd Kendall, © 2005 The Lorenz Publishing Company, Used by Permission. CCLI Copyright License 21022161]

Acts 8:26-38

When an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.’

The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.