



November 25, 2018

ORDER OF WORSHIP

“We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love, and that love comes with community.” —Dorothy Day

Please silence all cell phones.

THE GATHERING AND QUIET PREPARATION

“Thanks Be to Thee”

Handel

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 92** “For the Beauty of the Earth”

Verses 1-5

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to give thanks to God,

People: For God has made us and the whole of creation.

Leader: We gather with gratitude for one another,

People: For we have been created in God’s image and are called to bear God’s blessings and love to each other.

Leader: As we draw near to God in our worship,

may we experience a sense of community with God and one another,

People: For we, like God, have been created to live in community.

***THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 92**

Verse 6

For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given,

for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

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THE TIME OF WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

The Ritual of Friendship folder is located at the center aisle; please sign and pass.

THE ANTHEM

“Crown Him With Many Crowns”

arr. Mary McDonald

Chancel Choir

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THE CALL TO PRAYER (Leader)

THE UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Blessed One, you created human beings for your glory and pleasure. As we come before you this day, we confess our own brokenness. Forgive us for being self-absorbed and choosing to live solely for ourselves. Forgive us for focusing more on what divides us than on what unites us. Forgive us for allowing the noise around us to drown out the voice of your love in our lives. Renew us once more. Open us to the presence of your Spirit. Remind us that it is your grace, and your grace alone, that defines us. And then use us to carry your love to a lonely and hurting world. Amen.

THE SILENT PRAYER

THE WORDS OF GRACE

THE 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

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THE OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY

**“Rejoice, the Lord is King”
Chancel Choir**

arr. Gordon Young

***THE DOXOLOGY NO. 94**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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***THE HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 547 “O Church of God, United”**

THE SCRIPTURE

John 17:6-11, 20-23

Pew Bible page 987

This is God's living word for God's living people. ~ **Thanks be to God!**

THE SERMON

“Lonely?”

Rev. Shawn Lewis-Lakin

***THE HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 555** “Forward Through the Ages”

***THE BENEDICTION AND PERIOD OF SILENCE**

Please wait quietly in your pew during the recession of the clergy.

***THE POSTLUDE**

“Grand Choeur Dialogue”

Gigout

**Congregation Standing*

****Seating of Worshipers*

We Welcome All Visitors and are glad you have chosen to worship with us. A special gift is available at the Welcome Center for those visiting with us for the first time. We invite you to participate in the life and ministries of this church. Please come again!

If you have difficulty seeing the worship bulletin or hymns, large-print orders of worship and hymnals are available. **Our Sanctuary is equipped with a T-coil hearing system.** Hearing assistance devices are also available for use during worship. **Shawls** are available if you are chilly in the Sanctuary. **Quiet Time Activities** are available for children who worship with their parents. Ask an usher for assistance.

The Liturgists are Rev. Elbert Dulworth at 8:15, and Rev. Lindsey Hall at 9:30 and 11:00.

The Altar Flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and placed by Carolyn Sanders in gratitude for the many prayers and support of this beautiful congregation for her grandson Nathan Krmarik's recovery from an accident on September 27.

The Missions Candle is lit by Linda S. White in loving memory of her sister, Bonnie Rose White, an American Baptist missionary.



BIRMINGHAM FIRST
A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Elbert Dulworth, Senior Pastor

Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Senior Associate Pastor

Zack Dunlap, Lindsey Hall, Dan Hart and Suzanne Walls, Associate Pastors

John E. Harnish, William A. Ritter and Robert P. Ward, Pastors Emeriti