

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (UCC.org)

Leader: Know that the Holy One is God.

People: We are God's people.

Leader: Worship the Holy One with gladness;

People: Come into God's presence with singing.

Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God courts with praise.

People: Make a joyful noise!

Leader: For God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

People: Let us worship with thanks and joy! Let us praise God in song and word and prayer.

HYMN #343 "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

Called as partners in Christ's service, Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring To fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving Hope and confidence and peace.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

SERMON

HYMN “As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought” (#414)

As those of old their firstfruits brought
Of vineyard, flock, and field
To God, the giver of all good,
Thou source of bounteous yield,
So we today our firstfruits bring,
The wealth of this good land:
Of farm and market, shop and home,
Of mind and heart and hand.

A world in need now summons us
To labor, love, and give,
To make our life an offering
To God that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
To make the dream come true:
A world redeemed by Christlike love,
All life in Christ made new.

With gratitude and humble trust
We bring our best to You,
Not just to serve Your cause,
but share Your love with neighbors too.
O God who gave Yourself to us
In Jesus Christ Your Son,

Help us to give ourselves each day Until life's work is done.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: God, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

SILENT PRAYER

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.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

Offertory

COMMISSION

Leader: Let us leave here with open hearts, to share God's unconditional love with all we meet.

*All: We will go with courage; holding fast to what is good; rendering to no one evil for evil.
We will strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, and help the afflicted.
Honoring all beings, we will serve God; rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
Through this and every coming day,
That in Your Spirit, strong and true
Our lives may be our gift to You.*

POSTLUDE