



Altar Design and Photo by Gail Niles

Order of Worship Fourth Sunday After Easter

May 2, 2021

8:15 & 10:00 a.m.

Gathering of the Community

*For our virtual communion, you will need a piece of bread
and something to drink in a cup.*

Welcome
Service Introduction
Silent Prayer

Prelude

“Canzonetta”
from Six Short Pieces

Josef Rheinberger

*Call to Worship

We come to this place where God pours out love on us,
we join our voices in praise, as our fears are left behind.
We gather with these people, those who seek to follow Jesus,
so we might walk the paths of service hand in hand.
We open our hearts to the gifts of the Spirit,
So that grace and peace might be the fruit we bear.

1. Time now to gather, Time now to feel
Christ's holy presence gracing this meal.
Grain from the harvest fruit of the vine;
simple the supper, sacred the sign.

2. Time to remember Christ who was sent.
Time to say thank you for all he meant.
Come to this table. Come, without fear.
God will forgive you, welcome you here.

3. All who are hungry, come, and be fed.
Serve one another this cup and bread.
All who are troubled, hurting, or sad,
come, and find healing. Come, and be glad!

Call to Reconciliation

There come those moments when we stand exposed, our failings, our hurtful words, our harmful ways open for all to see. But God takes these moments, and these sins, redeeming them through compassionate love, making us new people, children of the Living God. Let us come, in these moments, with our prayers to the One who waits to forgive us and make us whole. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

We carry our fears around with us like so much pocket lint, Compassionate Heart, when you would take them and toss them aside, spent and useless. You invite us to sit and chat with someone who wants to know more about you, but we are busy running errands. You give us a simple command—to love, and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts.

Forgive us, Vine Grower. You have planted those seeds of mercy, of hope, of grace deep within us, so we might bear rich and nourishing fruit for others. May we not get in the way of your Gardener, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who will use the Holy Spirit to bring forth an abundant crop.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

God abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news for us!

As God is in us, so we can live, work, care for others, so that love, hope, and joy might touch all people. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Proclamation of the Word

Children’s Time
Children’s Hymn

“Thank you, Jesus, amen!”
Thank you, Jesus, amen! Thank you, Jesus, amen!
Thank you, Jesus, amen! Alleluia! Amen!

First Scripture Reading

Acts 8:26-40

CEB

²⁶ An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, “At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.) ²⁷ So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.) ²⁸ He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Approach this carriage and stay with it.”

³⁰ Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you really understand what you are reading?”

³¹ The man replied, “Without someone to guide me, how could I?” Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him. ³² This was the passage of scripture he was reading:

*Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent
so he didn't open his mouth.*

³³ *In his humiliation justice was taken away from him.
Who can tell the story of his descendants
because his life was taken from the earth?*

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, about whom does the prophet say this? Is he talking about himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. ³⁶ As they went down the road, they came to some water.

³⁷ The eunuch said, “Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?” ³⁸ He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Lord’s Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip found himself in Azotus. He traveled through that area, preaching the good news in all the cities until he reached Caesarea.

*Hymn #354

“I Surrender All”

Surrender

1. All to Jesus I surrender;
all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him,
in his presence daily live.

Refrain:
I surrender all, I surrender all,
all to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

2. All to Jesus I surrender;
humbly at his feet I bow,
worldly pleasures all forsaken;
take me, Jesus, take me now. *Refrain*

3. All to Jesus I surrender;
make me, Savior, wholly thine;
let me feel the Holy Spirit,
truly know that thou art mine. *Refrain*

4. All to Jesus I surrender;
Lord, I give myself to thee;
fill me with thy love and power;
let thy blessing fall on me. *Refrain*

5. All to Jesus I surrender;
now I feel the sacred flame.
O the joy of full salvation!
Glory, glory to his name! *Refrain*

*Gospel

John 15:1-8

CEB

¹⁵ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper. ² He removes any of my branches that don’t produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. ³ You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can’t produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can’t produce fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can’t do anything. ⁶ If you don’t remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples.

Sermon

“Just Love”

Rev. Marti Swords-Horrell

*Bread of heav'n, on Thee we feed, for thou art our food indeed.
Ever may our souls be fed with this true and living bread,
day by day with strength supplied through the life of Christ who died.*

*Vine of heav'n thy love supplies this blest cup of sacrifice.
'Tis thy wounds our healing give; to thy cross we look and live.
Thou our life! O let us be rooted, grafted, built on thee.*

*Bread of heav'n on thee we feed, for thou art our food indeed.
Vine of heav'n, thy love supplies this blest cup of sacrifice.
Thou my life! O let me be rooted, grafted, built on thee,
through the life of Christ who lives in me.*

Invitation to Offering and Prayer of Dedication

the May Jingle goes to the Jamaica Building Fund

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People Each prayer will end, “In your mercy;” please respond, “**Hear our prayer.**”

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

As much as we are loved by our God,

so we are to love one another!

Beloved of God, come to this Table with your hearts wide open.

For God has promised to dwell in us.

Here at the Table of wonder and grace,

we are fed by the One who loves us.

Though we have never seen God, we know

and testify to the One who gives us all we need.

When light pierced the shadows of chaos...

So, with those who have gone down to the dust, and with all the generations yet to come, we join our voices,
singing your praises:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of grace and peace.

All the ends of the earth sing of your glory.

Hosanna in the Highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to guide our way.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, God of every moment, and blessed is Jesus Christ, the Vine of life and hope.

...we proclaim to all the generations to come that mystery we call faith:

Christ walked down wilderness road to death;

Christ cast aside the grave, raised to life;

Christ will come again to guide us to glory.

When we gather at the Table...

our hearts will love forever, abiding in your love, God in Community, Holy in One, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: And now as forgiven and reconciled children of God, we pray, **"Our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, who art in heaven..."**

Breaking the Bread
Sharing the Bread and Cup

*Hymn #2238

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"

New Dimensions

1. In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways.
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?

Refrain:
God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.

2. Through the flood of starving people,
warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care? *Refrain*

3. As we stand a world divided
by our own self seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village
might envision wider dreams. *Refrain*

4. We are man and we are woman,
all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation,
each a love song to be sung. *Refrain*

5. Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit,
resurrect the church again. *Refrain*

Announcements
Good Word

Postlude

"Allegretto"

Gustav Merkel

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Thank you for your continued gifts and tithes to the church!



From the Green Team: If you live in an apartment or condo complex, do they have recycling service? Are they planting trees? Or switching to LED lights? If not, advocate for God's creation. Gather a Green Team of residents who care, educate the other residents, and lobby for change. *The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement*

We are open for in-person worship for all services. Please wear a mask and enter through the Church Street door. The COVID questions will be asked and temperatures will be checked. Once inside, ushers will lead you to seating that will be at least 6 feet from any other household. There will be no singing, no child care, and no coffee hour. Thank you for respecting these restrictions for the health and safety of our community.

You can now watch our Sunday Service on our YouTube channel (go to YouTube and search "FUMC Oneonta"). It will be ready to watch at about 11:30 am each Sunday. After you watch, please hit the subscribe button!

PRAYER LIST – May 2nd, 2021

Bill Pharr is at Focus Rehab, 1445 Kemble Street, Room 207, Utica NY 13501

Kathryn Roffe is now at Fox Nursing Home permanently (Room 318, 2 Norton Ave, Oneonta, NY 13820)

Prayer Requests: Prayer requests will be published for 4 weeks. If you would like to extend a request, please call the church office to talk to the secretary or leave her a message.

- Ramona Leavey asks for prayers for her family & friends
- David and Tom Jones, Bhala Jones' sons
- Sharon McCarthy's friend, Carolyn
- Bruce VonHoltz
- Brenda Wilkinson's brother, Terry Potter
- Mitchell Lewis, Adelaide Van Buren's grand nephew
- Dr. John Rioux, friend of Ramona Leavey
- Pam, friend of Ramona Leavey
- Eddy, friend of Ramona Leavey
- Prayers for Alexey Navalny who is in a Russian prison, requested by Dee Stevens
- Brenda Wilkinson's sister, Kimberly Carlson
- Sharon McCarthy's friend, Michelle
- Jack Hand
- Janet Frankl
- Don Copenheaver, friend of Marty Becker

*Please keep Scott (Dorothy), Todd, Nina, and Rose in your prayers
as they grieve the passing of Doug Fielder on April 28th.*

*Our sympathies to Rosemary Thomas, Chris, Eli, Jesse & Ava Brashear
on the death of Rose's brother, Jim Thomas.*

Please pray for the family of Betty Fischer, friend of Ramona Leavey, who died on April 28th.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: to Gage Gardepe on May 2; Allen Caswell, Janet Parsons, Michael Nordberg, Kayley Qua & Preston Benjamin on May 4; David DePauw on May 5; Beverly LeBeau on May 6; Ken Schrider & Nathaniel Kuhlman on May 7.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: to Mary Allen & Mark Kuhlmann on May 6.



Collecting for-deposit cans and bottles: In the past we have collected the for-deposit cans and bottles and used the money for the Jamaica Mission. However, at this time we are NOT collecting cans and bottles until further notice.



We are collecting information on all of our graduating seniors. Please send all names of family members who are graduating and from what schools so we can celebrate them!
secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK – May 2nd, 2021

- TODAY 8:15 am Worship in person or by live stream via Facebook
10:00 am Worship in person or by live stream via Zoom — link by computer:
 <https://zoom.us/j/195736049>; or call on your phone: 1- 646-558- 8656
 Meeting ID: 195 736 049. You will be admitted from the “waiting room”.
- 11:00 am Coffee Hour & Fellowship via Zoom
1:00 pm Imagine No Racism class via Zoom
- MON. 5/3 10:00 am Book Group by Zoom-call Margaret Parish
- TUES. 5/4 2:00 pm Spirituality Study “To Stand Again: Practices of the Resurrected Life” by Zoom
 contact Margaret Parish for link
- WED. 5/5 7:00 pm Patrick Committee meeting by Zoom
- THURS. 5/6 10:00 am UMW Book Group by Zoom—call Sharry Strait-Carey
12:00 pm Lectio Divina by Zoom—contact Margaret Parish for link
7:00 pm Confirmation Class via Zoom
- FRI. 5/7
- SAT. 5/8 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday’s Bread Hot Meal Program
- SUN. 5/9 8:15 am Worship in person or by live stream via Facebook
10:00 am Worship in person or by live stream via Zoom — link by computer:
 <https://zoom.us/j/195736049>; or call on your phone: 1- 646-558- 8656 Meeting ID:
 195 736 049. You will be admitted from the “waiting room”
11:00 am Coffee Hour & Fellowship via Zoom
1:00 pm Imagine No Racism class via Zoom

COVID Information

1. Although New York State does not require quarantining after traveling out of state, the NYS Health Department recommends quarantining after domestic travel as an added precaution. The FUMC Covid Team suggests that you consider not attending church in person for at least one week after out-of-state travel. Thank you.
2. Once you're vaccinated, what should you do with your CDC vaccination card? Most authorities agree that you should not carry the original with you, but instead store it in a safe place at home, as you may need it again to record booster shots if ever required.
3. Take a picture of your card and store it on your cell phone and/or scan your card to your PC. Make at least one copy and take the copy, not the original, to OfficeMax for free lamination on or before July 25, 2021. This is what you will want to carry in your wallet or purse.
4. Additionally, you may want to download the New York State Excelsior Pass app, available in the App Store or on Google Play. Go to <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/excelsior-pass> for further information on this volunteer program.

If you have any questions, if you still need the vaccine, or if you need to get tested, please contact us.
Sharry Strait-Carey 434-5234 or sharrysc9@hotmail.com
Marty Van Lenten Becker 432-4917

A Solidarity with Asian Americans Rally will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 2nd in front of the Otsego County Courthouse (197 Main St., Cooperstown) in response to the rising number of hate crimes directed at Asian Americans since the start of the pandemic.

Local teens from Cooperstown, with the support of community members, are planning this rally to show solidarity and to speak out against hate. The goal of the event is to support and celebrate Asian Americans in our community and nation — and to call for an end to discrimination, racism and violence. It will feature speakers, music, and opportunities for advocacy. Masks and social distancing will be required at the event.

May is Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage month. The local students involved in organizing the rally are creating a window display at 149 Main Street, Cooperstown to highlight the history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. The exhibit will be on display throughout the month of May.

Readers..... 8:15-Tiffany Gardner, 10:00-Dottie Lawson
 Choristers Sanctuary Choir
 Ministers Every Member of First United Methodist
 Upper NY Area Bishop..... Rev. Mark J. Webb
 Oneonta District Superintendent..... Rev. Nancy Adams
 Oneonta District Associate Rev. George Gallandorm
 Ordained Minister Rev. Marti Swords-Horrell
 Co-Lay Leaders..... Gail Niles & Peter Paluch
 Director of Music Ministries..... John Jurgensen
 Business & Facilities Manager Jeff Gardner
 Communication Coordinator Amy Burnsworth
 Secretary Leslie Bauer
 Sexton Randall Wilson
 Volunteer Caretaker Christopher Brashear
 Child Care Keshia Genzardi
 Church Address.....66 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, NY 13820
 Church Office Phone.....(607) 432-4102
 Church emailsecretary@firstumc-oneonta.org
 Pastor Marti’s email..... pastor@firstumc-oneonta.org
 Pastor Marti’s cell phone(315) 569-9156
 Church web page.....http://www.firstumc-oneonta.org