

September 5, 2021
Order of Worship
Grinnell United Church of Christ

Liturgist: Tommy Haas
Vocalist: Conner Stanfield
Organist: Kenneth Davis
Pastor: Rev. Jessica Margrave Schirm

As a safety precaution during COVID, please remain silent during the worship service (as in no congregant singing nor praying aloud). Thank you for helping to keep each other safe.

PRELUDE *Prelude on the First Tone, Jacques Boyvin (1649-1706)*
In All Lands, Rejoice Ye Christians, arr. J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

INVOCATION

Come and worship!
Praise the One between, within, and over.
Trust in the One who co-creates the was, the now, and the will-be.
Our hope is in the One who creates expansive love calling us to do the same.
Follow the One who never breaks covenant.
The One whose extravagant love calls us to co-create justice for the oppressed,
feed the hungry, unlock prisons, and welcome strangers, orphans, and widows.
Praise the One whose justice is grace-full and inclusive.
Praise the Spirit that spans the ages. Amen!

WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
The Peace of Christ be with you.... *(silently)* And also with you.

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 35:4-7; Mark 7:24-37*

HYMN NCH 300 *Jesus Shall Reign*
Words: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. Music: Attrib. to John Hatton, c. 1793

- 1) Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run,
God's realm shall stretch from shore to shore, 'til moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2) Through Christ shall endless prayer be made, borne by the Spirit's ceaseless aid;
Like sweet perfume new hymns shall rise with every morning sacrifice.
- 3) People and realms of every tongue dwell on God's love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim their earliest prayers in Jesus' name.

4) Blessings abound where'er Christ reigns: the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blessed.

5) Let every creature rise and bring tributes of praise for all to sing,
Angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.

SERMON *Psalm 146*

REFLECTIVE SILENCE

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord, help us say no
when the voices speak of building up investments
in the things of the world
when you want us to invest ourselves
in the ways of heaven

Lord, help us say no to the world and yes to you

Lord, help us say no
to what the world tells us we need
in the accumulation of stuff
when you want us to let go the stuff
and rely on you instead

Lord, help us say no to the world and yes to you

Lord, help us say no
to the quick fix and ready-made answer
that patches the cracks
when you long for us to take a lifetime
to live and explore the questions

Lord, help us say no to the world and yes to you

Lord help us say no
to throwing money at every problem
of feeding the hungry with direct debts
when you wish we would live in a more equal relationship
with those who are hungry in the world

Lord, help us say no to the world and yes to you

Lord help us say no
to the easy way the world wants
that involves no pain or hardship
when you call us to carry crosses
and trust the love that bears all

Lord, help us say no to the world and yes to you

Lord help us say no
to conflicts that show humanity at its worst
in blitz and repression
when you know we can live
ways that show the magnificence of humanity

Lord, help us say no to the world and yes to you

Lord help us say no
to a faith that speaks empty words
and is borne by hollow actions
when we know of a word
that brings the fullness of life
and is carried by actions shaped by justice

Lord, help us say no to the world and yes to you

LORD'S PRAYER *(Inclusive Version) (Please pray silently)*

Blessed One, our Father and our Mother

Holy is your name.

May your love be enacted in the world.

May your will be done

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread

And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us in the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For all that we do in your love,

and all that your love brings to birth,

and the fullness of love that will be

are yours, now and forever. Amen.

GRATITUDE FOR OFFERING / DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

HYMN NCH 553 *There Is a Balm in Gilead*
African-American spiritual

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

1) Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. (Refrain)

2) Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
Who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend. (Refrain)

3) If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus who died to save us all. (Refrain)

BENEDICTION

As you have been fed, go to feed the hungry.
As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned.
As you have been received – give.
As you have heard – proclaim.
And the blessing which you have received from the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit
be always with you. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Voluntary in G minor*, Maurice Greene (1696-1755)

ATTENTION: *For everyone's safety, please exit the building quietly and in a timely manner and reserve socializing for outside the church building.*

Worship Resources

Invocation ~ written by Tim Graves, and posted on LiturgyBits. <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>

Pastoral Prayer ~ written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

Lord's Prayer ~ Copyright © 2003 Richard D. McCall, Associate Professor of Liturgy and Church Music, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Ma. Posted on the Worship Well website.

Benediction ~ written by Rev. Daniel B. Randall, and posted on the United Church of Christ's *Worship Ways* website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>

