

**August 15 2021**  
**Order of Worship**  
**Grinnell United Church of Christ**

**Liturgist:** Dorothy Noer

**Vocal Ensemble:** JoAnn Britton, Jo Entwisle, Russ Leggett, Sue Ramsey, Liz Rodrigues,  
Judy Scheer

**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** *Reverie*, Alexander Schreiner (1942)  
*Alla Mennetto*, Ernest H. Smith (1862 - 1946)

## **INVOCATION**

O God from whom every gift derives,  
we gather to worship You this day.  
You are an awesome God,  
greater than our comprehension or our imagination.  
You are beyond any word we could ever use to describe You.  
And yet, through Jesus, we know the intimacy of Your vast love.

We have come to You in thanksgiving and praise,  
to know that You are God  
and to place our lives anew into Your perspective.  
Enlarge our vision this hour with Your Word.  
Instill in us, again,  
Your hope in place of our despair,  
Your peace where our hatred threatens,  
Your joy amidst our depression,  
Your love overwhelming our apathy.

May Your Holy Spirit surround and indwell this congregation now,  
and forevermore. In Jesus we pray. 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** *Psalms 111; 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14*

## **HYMN** NCH 12 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Words: Isaac Watts, 1715; music: from German hymnal, 1784

1) I sing the mighty pow'r of God, that made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

2) I sing the goodness of our God, who filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with a Word, and then pronounced them good.  
Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye:  
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.

3) On earth there's not a plant or flower, but makes your glories known,  
The clouds arise, and spread their showers, by order from your throne.  
All life is but a gift from your and ever in your care;  
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.

**SERMON**      *Ephesians 5:15-20*

## **SILENT REFLECTION**

## **SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

*We pray for health and strength for Pasha Buck, George Drake, Betty Anne Francis, Verlene Mitchell, Laura Nelson Lof, Emily Pfitsch, Gayle and Lois Strickler, Nancy Wolff.*

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace:

We thank you for the gift of life:

for the breath that sustains life,  
for the food of this earth that nurtures life,  
for the love of family and friends without which there would be no life.

We thank you for the mystery of creation:

for the beauty that the eye can see,  
for the joy that the ear may hear,  
for the unknown that we cannot behold filling the universe with wonder,  
for the expanse of space that draws us beyond the definitions of our selves.

We thank you for setting us in communities:

for families who nurture our becoming,  
for friends who love us by choice,

for companions at work who share our burdens and daily tasks,  
for strangers who welcome us into their midst,  
for people from other lands who call us to grow in understanding,  
for children who lighten our moments with delight,  
for the unborn who offer us hope for the future.

We thank you for this day:

for life and one more day to love,  
for opportunity and one more day to work for justice and peace,  
for neighbors and one more person to love and by whom be loved,  
for your grace and one more experience of your presence,  
for your promise: to be with us, to be our God, and to give salvation.

For these, and all blessings, we give you thanks, eternal, loving God,  
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

### **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 290 *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

Words: George Croly, 1854; Music: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

I) Spirit of God, who descend upon my heart,  
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,  
And make me love you as I ought to love.

2) I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,  
No sudden rending of the veil of clay,  
No angel visitant, no opening skies;  
But take the dimness of my soul away.

3) Have you not bid us love you, every way?  
All, all your own: soul, heart and strength and mind;  
I see your cross--there, teach my heart to stay:  
O let me seek you and O let me find!

4) Teach me to feel that you are always nigh;  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;  
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

5) Teach me to love you as your angels love,  
One holy passion filling all my frame:  
The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove;  
My heart an altar, and your love the flame.

## **BENEDICTION**

Holy Wisdom,  
you granted Solomon's request for an understanding mind and the knowledge to discern good from evil. Fill us with such understanding and knowledge that we may act as instruments of your loving desire for creation, working with you to transform our conceit into concern for others, our fear into love, our violence into peace, and our brokenness into wholeness.  
Amen.

## **POSTLUDE** *Bourree*, J. S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

***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** ~ posted on My Redeemer Lives website. <http://www.myredeemerlives.com/prayers.html>

**Pastoral Prayer** ~ adapted from "Prayers of Our Hearts" © 1991 Vienna Cobb Anderson. Posted on BeliefNet.com

<http://www.beliefnet.com/Prayers/Christian/Gratitude/Prayer-Of-Thanksgiving.aspx>

**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** ~ from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers copyright © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts admin. Augsburg Fortress. Posted on Thematic, Intercessory and Scripture Prayers for the RCL, Vanderbilt Divinity Library. <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=161>