

August 22, 2021
Order of Worship
Grinnell United Church of Christ

Liturgist: Nancy Brown

Vocalists: Ensemble

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 *O Thou, in Heaven Above*, arr. Johann Krieger (1651-1735)

INVOCATION

Will you, God, live on this small planet earth?
Look! Heaven and earth cannot contain You,
much less this house of prayer which we have built and cherished.
Raise the stone and you shall find me,
cleave the wood and I am there.

There is no god like you, God of Jesus,
neither on earth nor elsewhere in the whole universe!
A God who keeps every promise and shows unswerving love to your servants
who with all their hearts walk in your ways.
Blessed are you, our Creator and Redeemer,
in whom we live and move and have our being.

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 *Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20*

HYMN NCH 315 *O Word of God Incarnate*

Words: William H. How, 1867; music: German hymnal, 1693

I) O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of clouded sky,
We praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

2) O God, we hold this treasure from you, its source divine,
A light that to all ages throughout the earth will shine;
It is the chart and compass that all life's voyage through,
Mid mists and rocks and tempest, still guides, O God, to you.

3) O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold,
To bear before your people your true light, as of old!
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace,
'Til, doubt and striving ended, they meet you face to face.

SERMON *John 6:56-69*

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

Every day we journey on this earth is a day in which we make choices:
left or right, up or down, in or out, yes or no.
Some choices are simple, and some are very complex,
but one choice informs all the others:

Who will be our God?

Who will we trust to see us through this journey?

Who has been with us from before the beginning, bringing us into existence?

Who has loved us and blessed us and sent us on our way?

Who has pointed us toward the path and posted the signs we need to find our way?

Who has been at our side when the road has been smooth and gently curving?

Who has kept with us through hairpin turns and construction zones and potholes and detours?

Who will celebrate with us when we complete our course and seek the comfort of eternity?

Only One. The One and Only.

Holy One. The One and Holy.

Let us choose this day to stay faithful to the One who is faithful to us?

Let us choose this day to place your whole trust in the One who is trustworthy?

May we choose this day to commit your talents and your resources
to the One who first endowed them?

May we choose this day to love the One who loved us first?

Only One. The One and Only.
Holy One. The One and Holy.

We devote ourselves to you by renewing the covenant—
the promise you made to humanity so long ago.
Because you are our God, we will be your people.
Enlarge our faithfulness, our trust, our commitment and our love
so that we may graciously uphold our side of the deal.
Help us always to recognize your presence and your blessings
throughout our journey.
Keep us in your care. 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 502 Dear God, Embracing Humankind

Words: John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872, alt; music: Frederick C. Maker, 1887

1) Dear God, embracing humankind, forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives your service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

2) In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of your word, let us, like them, by spirit stirred,
Rise up and followers be.

3) O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above!
Where Jesus met your prayerfully: the silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

4) Drop your still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of your peace.

5) Breathe through the pulses of desire your coolness and your balm;
Let sense be numb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

BENEDICTION

“Do you want to leave me too?” Jesus asks. He does not water down his words or change them. “Whoever eats my flesh will live forever.”

Where would we go, Jesus? Who has life and words like yours?

If you can create a universe from nothing;
if you can invent a wheat field,
then we believe that you can come to us as bread.

Holy One of God,
nourish us, be with us and sustain us,
or we will not have the strength for what lies ahead.
Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE *Christ, the Life of All the Living*, arr. Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau (1663-1712)

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 Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page.

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

Pastoral Prayer ~ written by Rev. Christine Sobania Johnson on her blog, Freshly Squeezed Liturgy. <http://freshlysqueezedliturgy.blogspot.com/>

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 Anne Osdieck, and posted on Saint Louis University's The Center for Liturgy web site. <http://liturgy.slu.edu/>