

September 12, 2021
Order of Worship
Grinnell United Church of Christ

Liturgist: JoAnn Britton

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

INVOCATION

Loving God,
you call us to turn away from our own selfish interests,
to take up our cross, and to follow you.
To find our lives, may we live them in service of your mission.

As we come before you this morning, give us open hearts and open hands.
Make us eager to hear your voice and seek your guidance.

Open our minds to your ever-present spirit that is always moving within and around us
Open our spirits to your nudging and open our lives to your love.

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 50:4-9; Mark 8:27-38*

HYMN NCH 592 *God of the Ages*

Words: Daniel Crane Roberts, 1876, alt. Music: George William Warren, 1892

SERMON

Psalm 19

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN NCH 27 *From All That Dwell below the Skies*

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. Music: German hymnal, 1623

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

Creator God, we come before you asking prayers for those who lead
nations
cities
churches
homes.

As you poured out your love in the Word may we hear your word and follow;
may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts lead us to you.

Holy One, we come before you - a people broken into shards of lives
sick,
poor,
hungry
hidden by the limitations of our eyes.

Help us to see as You see as you poured out your love in the Word.
May we hear your word and follow may the words of our mouths and
the meditations of our hearts lead us to you.

God of Mercy, we come before you – seeking to live as you command, but often
failing,
and thus we are torn by
cries of despair
anger
power
control
lost to foolishness and stumbling blocks despite your love in the Word

Help us to hear your word and follow.

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts lead us to you.

Gentle God, we come before you giving thanks for all our blessings
the gift of life

hope

faith

love

family

friends

all we care for this day.

Help us to be Your hands.

Incline Your heart, O gracious God, and teach us to love

O Christ, our rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Inclusive Version*)

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 556 *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

Words: Catherine Cameron, 1967. Music: William Moore, 1825

BENEDICTION

Abandon the illusion you're a self-contained individual.
Be a part of this wounded world, and find yourself with Christ.

Set aside your own desires, give yourself fully for others; be the hands and heart of Jesus.

Renounce self-protection, accept your brokenness, and reach out for love.

Let go of your own plans. Join in the healing of the world. You will not be alone.

Follow your soul, not your ego. Follow it right into people's suffering.
Follow it right into the heart of God.

Pour yourself out; let the world pour in; then you are one with the Beloved.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

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 The Minor Keys. <http://theminorkeys.blogspot.ca/>

Pastoral Prayer ~ written by Terri C. Pilarski, and posted on RevGalBlogPals. <http://revgalblogpals.org/2012/03/11/sunday-prayer-lent-3b/>

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 Steve Garnaas-Holmes and posted on Unfolding Light. <https://www.unfoldinglight.net/>

