

September 26, 2021
Order of Worship
Grinnell United Church of Christ

Liturgist: John Noer

Vocalist: Shane Estes

Bell Ensemble: David Eberbach, Jo Entwisle, Russ Leggett, Judy Scheer, Mary Smith

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 & Fugue in E-flat Major, Johann Kaspar Ferdinand Fischer (1656 - 1746)*

INVOCATION

The heavens are telling the glory of God. May our worship reflect God's glory.
The firmament proclaims God's handiwork. May we see each other as the handiwork of God.
Let our prayer and praise, our singing and proclamation project the love of God.
We commune with Christians around the world, with Christians throughout time.
With Christians across geography and across time, let us worship!

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 *Esther 7:1-10 and 9:20-22; Mark 9:38-50*

HYMN PH 66 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Words: Folliott S. Pierpoint (1835 - 1917); Music: arr. Conrad Kocher (1786 - 1872)

1) For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies.

REFRAIN:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

2) For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light, (REFRAIN)

3) For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight, (REFRAIN)

4) For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, (REFRAIN)

5) For each perfect gift of thine unto us so freely given,
Graces, human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven, (REFRAIN)

6) For thy Church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love, (REFRAIN)

SERMON *Psalm 124*

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, and Nancy Wolff.

PASTORAL PRAYER

God of Endless Mercy,
we have often been swallowed up by our greed and selfishness,
desiring that which we do not have, filling our lives with things that do not save us.
We have often been swept away by the floods of our own making,
polluting your creation, neglecting to be faithful stewards of the earth.
We have often attacked one another and led lives of violence,
sending missiles instead of accepting refugees, ignoring your commandments.
Lord have mercy, for we have sinned and fallen short of your glory.
Christ have mercy, for we are broken and need your salvation.
Lord have mercy upon us and hear us
as we pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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 25 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

- 1) O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:
- 2) Under the shadow of your throne, Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.
- 3) Before the hills in order stood Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, To endless years the same.
- 4) A thousand ages in your sight Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.
- 5) Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly, forgotten, as a dream Fades at the opening day.
- 6) O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while troubles last, And our eternal home!

BENEDICTION

Go in peace to enjoy and employ your gift of faith.
Fear neither outward foe nor inner temptation.
Rejoice in your blessings and smile in your adversities.
Our help is in the name of God who made heaven and earth.
And may the inexhaustible grace of Christ crucified, the tireless, eternal love of God,
and the live-in Guest who fills this household of faith with many gifts,
be with you this day and for evermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Fugue in D Major*, G. F. Handel (1685 - 1759)

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 ~ from *Jesus Sets the Table*, resources by the United Church of Christ, posted on their Worship Ways website.

Pastoral Prayer ~ written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing and posted on Liturgy and Hymns by Stephen M.

Fearing. <http://www.stephenmfearing.com/> Permission is given for use in congregational worship. Please give the following credit: "Written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing - www.stephenmfearing.com"

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Benediction ~ written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page. <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>