

Welcome to Worship

UCC East

Summer 2020 - Service 4

"Consciously or unconsciously, every one of us does render some service or other. If we cultivate the habit of doing this service deliberately, our desire for service will steadily grow stronger, and will make, not only our own happiness, but that of the world at large."

-- Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) Indian Political and Spiritual Leader

* Please stand, as you are able.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

A way parts and God is there, waiting for us
Our path is made by the footsteps of faith
and we join with all the generations who came before.
We are the people of faith in our time and place and
we gather to worship God

* **HYMN:** Morning Has Broken VU 409

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

God of prophets past and future, eager and reluctant,
renew our hearts by your Spirit -

endowing us with the Spirits gifts;
a Spirit who calls us to continue your work in our world.
May we be receptive to your Spirit, we pray.
Amen

HYMN: I've Got Peace

UV 577

THEME CONVERSATION:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When our fear overpowers us,
and we decide we are not good enough,
when the way forward looks too hard,
and no one else steps in to lead,
when our gifts seem scarce,
and we stop moving, too frightened to go on,
reveal your presence, O God.

When there are just too many questions
and there seem to be no answers,
when leadership calls though them
and we are the only ones to lead,
when the world is hard
and your calling even harder,
reveal your presence, O God.

Inspire us with a new vision,
Endow us with new words to speak,
Grant us your courage within our souls,
reveal your presence, O God.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The psalmist encourages us
to call to mind the deeds of God
and remember former days while moving into a new future.
God can and does work wonders through us and God
will lead us.

Amen

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

FIRST TESTAMENT READING: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Elisha sees Elijah ascend into the heavens.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 (VU p. 791)
I cry to God in my distress.

EPISTLE READING: Galatians 5: 22-26 (The fruits of the Spirit)
also using.
The fruit of the Spirit.

ANTHEM:

GOSPEL READING: Luke 10: 23-28
The privileges of discipleship

REFLECTION: Seeing God's Reflection in you and me Rev Peggy Johnson

* **HYMN:** "Three Things I Promise" MV 176

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD:

DEDICATION:

OFFERTORY PRAYER:
Liberating God, we may live in the Spirit.
And through our living in your Spirit, may our spiritual fruits increase within and among us:
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and
self-control. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Spirit God, giver of gifts,
We offer prayer for all who have been silenced
through laws and rules that oppress freedom and speech
by conflict and terror.
Spirit God, who sings love through the ages, who speaks in the
thunder and murmurs in the silence...let your Spirit sing through us
as we walk the way you have shown us.
In spite of pandemics and social unrest, in spite of the worries of
the world and the violence that attends them, you are always with
us giving us hope, sharing your love, and offering us your peace.
Hear us as we pray for those in need of your presence, here in our
community and beyond...

We offer to you these and all of our prayers as we pray together...
Our Father, who art in heaven...

WE ARE SENT FORTH

* **HYMN:** Jesus Calls Us VU 562

* **COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION:**
God calls and ordains each of us, in every generation to be
prophets.
May we take up the challenge of ministry.
Christ gives us our freedom, so we may live our love in the world.
May we take up the challenge of ministry.
Holy Spirit blows obstacles from the path, making a way of
ministry before us.
May we take up the challenge of ministry.
Go in the Spirit of God to be prophets of love
by your words and actions

* **CHORAL BENEDICTION:**

POSTLUDE