

Sunday June 6, 2021
Secrets in the Family's House

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us worship our God with joy and thanksgiving. Everything in us says:

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **Thank you!**

Leader: At worship in this sacred place we say it again:

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **Thank you!**

Leader: For your love, for your faithfulness:

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **Thank you!**

Leader: When earth's rulers hear what you have to say, O God,
They'll sing of what you've done:

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **How great the glory of God!**

Leader: Finish what you started in us, God.

Your love is eternal—stay with us, now, that we may say:

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **Thank you!**

*Based on Psalm 138, **The Message**.*

Opening Prayer **Unison** *(Out loud, but muted)*

We've been granted by our God all the gifts needed to live holistically and well. We have been given gifts by the grace of God to care for the community of souls around us. Help to inquire today how we can be renewed and refreshed to carry out what you hope for from us. May we continue to learn, relearn, and embrace what's revealed by you. Amen.

Hymn #395: In Christ There Is No East or West
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Jim Tilton

- 1) In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
But one community of love throughout the whole wide Earth.
- 2) In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.

- 3) In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free;
For men and women live in God, and all are kin to me.
- 4) In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth.

Litany of Confession **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

Leader: When we forget that God's ways lead all to the blessings of justice and mercy:

People: Lord have mercy.

Leader: When we forget that God's ways lead all, especially the most vulnerable,
to blessings of safety, health, meaningful work:

People: Christ have mercy.

Leader: When we forget that God's ways lead all to the blessings of the shared
abundance of God's beloved creation:

People: Lord have mercy.

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon (*from Mark 3: 34-35*)

Jesus reminds us: "Who is my mother, and who are my sisters and brothers? All those who do the will of God are my brother and sister and mother." In Christ we are forgiven all our failed efforts at community, and invited afresh to rejoin the family of God, seeking blessing for all.

Passing of the Peace (*unmute for Passing of the Peace*)

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you

People: And also with you!

Reading

Mike Crompton

Genesis 3: 8-15 (NIV)

3:8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

3:9 But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

3:10 He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

3:11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

3:12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."

3:13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

3:14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Special Music

Jim Tilton

Gospel Reading

Mark 3: 20-35 (NIV)

20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat.

21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

22 And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

23 So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan?"

24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

26 And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come.

27 In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house.

28 Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter,

29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.”

30 He said this because they were saying, “He has an impure spirit.”

31 Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him.

32 A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.”

33 “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked.

34 Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!

35 Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

Musical Interlude

Sermon: Secrets in the Family’s House

Music for Meditation

Prayers of the People (unmute yourself to offer a request, giving first names only, please)

Hymn #508 Prayer Is the Soul’s Sincere Desire (verses 1 and 5)
(sung muted but together)

**Prayer is the soul’s sincere desire, unuttered or expressed;
The motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.
O Christ, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer you too have trod: Christ, teach us how to pray.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

Offering Invitation *(from 2 Corinthians 4: 13-15)*

Paul writes of confidence in the power of God revealed in the resurrection of Jesus that must underlie a life of faithfulness and generosity: "I believed, and so I spoke". Today, let us believe, and give with generosity that God's goodness may be known in the world.

Offering and Dedication Unison *(Out loud, but muted)*

Generous God, take our gifts this day and use them so that we may be part of your great work in this world. Through our giving, bring justice and love closer to all, not just in our community but in the world beyond these walls. Strengthen our church and the whole United Church of Christ so that we grow together each day into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Communion Prayer Unison *(Out loud, but muted)*

As we eat this meal together and as we drink this juice of life in each other's presence grant unto us an emerging, fulfilling, and redeeming sense of life calling. In this holy meal of communion we feel the allure and enticement of fellowship enriching us and making us more able to serve you and your ends in life. With eternal gratitude we give you thanks. Amen.

Benediction Unison *(Out loud, but muted)*

**Finish what you started in us, God.
Your love is eternal—go with us, now, into the world,
that we may say: Thank you!**