

October 29, 2023

Prelude and Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The Holy One has been our hope and our home.

People: God has been with us from generation to generation.

Leader: We flourish and fade, bloom and renew in God's time.

People: Our lives are temporal and precious and glorious.

Leader: May the compassion and favor of the Holy One be with us.

People: May we be glad and prosperous in our work for our God!

***Hymn #439: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

***Passing of the Peace**

Stewardship Moment:

Susan Breon

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 22:34-46

Terry Henderson

Anthem: Over in the Glory Land, by Mary McDonald

Time With Young Disciples

Litany for the Halloween Season (written by Susan Ricketts Huffman, 1985)

Leader: We can be overcome by terror. With terrible things happening all around us, we can be overcome by the evil in the world.

People: When we stop and think, we wish that Halloween spooks were the worse things we had to face.

Leader: But the fearsome masks and the outrageous costumes are not as threatening as the real things that human beings do to one another.

People: Cruelty against strangers and children, acts of terrorism against innocent people, and crimes ever more horrifying dominate our news.

Leader: Yet, in the midst of all the evil in the world, we profess a belief in God.

People: We believe in God who is good, and in love which overcomes all.

Leader: For even in the midst of demonic forces, loving people are at work.

People: Justice is carried out. Healing takes place. People love and care for their neighbors and for victims of crimes in many places.

Leader: Terror and cruelty are not the final words.

People: The love of God overcomes all things.

Sermon: “Our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing”

***Hymn #498:** “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

The Community at Prayer (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord’s Prayer*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

Prayer Response

Invitation to the Offering

Young Disciples

(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)

Sharing of the abundance we receive is a tangible way to love our neighbor as ourselves. May we give with generous and empathetic hearts stirred to compassion and to companion to meet the needs before us.

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Giving God, we follow your example of the ministry of presence in the sharing of our resources. Prosper the work of our hands and minds and enable us to make a difference and participate in your realm through generosity. Amen.

***Hymn #576:** “For the Healing of the Nations”

*Commissioning and Blessing

*Choral Response

*Postlude

Love: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.