

March 3, 2024

Prelude and Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 19)

Leader: The heavens are telling of the glory of God;

People: and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

Leader: Your law, O God, is perfect, reviving our souls,

People: and your commandments are sure, rejoicing our hearts.

Leader: Let our words and worship, the meditation of our hearts, be acceptable to you,

People: O God, our rock and our redeemer!

***Hymn #332: "As We Gather at Your Table"**

***Passing the Peace**

***Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, from the beginning of time you have called your children into communion with you. Yet we confess that like all the rest, we have turned to our own way and refused your love and grace. Restore us to the joy of knowing you, and of recognizing your reign among us, through Jesus Christ, bringer of good news. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life. Thanks be to God.

Scripture:

John 2:13-22

Ron Dobson

Anthem:

Time With Young Disciples

***Unison Prayer**

God of justice and righteousness, deliver us from complacency about our lives and the world in which we live. Drive out from us careless sin. Make us sensitive to all that is sacred, shock us with awareness of any violation of human life in which we participate. May our standard be your Spirit, and not the ways of this world, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sermon: "Righteousness Debunked"

***Hymn #573:** "Lead on Eternal Sovereign"

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

(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.)

***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**

O God, whose richness is not found at the tables of those willing to exchange goods for the sake of acquiring earthly riches, but rather is found at the table of extravagant love for neighbor, we entrust these gifts to your care that they may abound in your steadfast love for all persons. Use them for the building of your beloved community here on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made....Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere saying:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Words of Institution and Consecration

Sharing the Elements

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Hymn #576:** "For the Healing of the Nations"

*Commissioning and Blessing

*Choral Response

*Postlude

Liturgy Resources: Call to Worship (Written by Rev. Kathryn Matthews Huey and Rev. Susan A. Blain for the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website 2012; Prayer of Dedication (Written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference for the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website 2024)