



September 20, 2020

9:30 am

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Text printed in **BOLD** in the bulletin indicates that everyone is to read and/or sing. However, in our virtual space we ask that all but the readers and musicians remain muted – you can still read aloud and sing at home!*

“The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into singing.”

Isaiah 14:7-32

Welcome and Life of the Community (Announcements)

Opening Song

To God Be the Glory

Mark Hayes

Call to Worship¹

One: The abiding love of God cradles the entire cosmos

All: **All of eternity rests in the embrace of Sacred Wisdom**

One: When our fears and limitations crowd our perception of what’s possible

All: **We remember, our help comes from God**

One: In memory of the saints who leaned on Love in the most trying situations

All: **And in solidarity with all who dare to practice hope in these days**

One: Let us gather in the presence of God that we might be renewed in faith

All: **Come, Holy Spirit, and make us brave in moral imagination**

Opening Prayer

Divine Wisdom, you invite us to live and perceive differently. Where the world rules aggressively with the rigid and narrow, you draw us into questions that purposely unravel and expand. May your Spirit enable us to keep our hearts and our minds always open, malleable to your love that stirs, surprises, and shakes-up. Amen.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Genesis 15: 1-6

Time with Children:

Bible Story Mystery Box

Pastor Kris

¹ Today’s order of worship is adapted from “Liturgy That Matters, March 8, 2020.” Enfleshed, 2020.

Special Music

Reflection

Blessing and Promise: Unexpected Gifts

Pastor Kris

SHARING OUR LIVES

Call to Prayer

Prayers of the People

During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. Pastor Kris will collect the petitions and read them during the service. Know that prayers shared this day are public. If you have prayer request you would like to remain private, you may email them to: pastorkris@memorialucc.org

**Remembering Our Story—A Prayer and Blessing
Telling the Story**

Isaiah 55:12-13

Prayer of Blessing² (In Unison)

God of heaven and earth, the work of your hands is made known in your bountiful creation and in the lives of those who faithfully live their lives in your grace. Today we especially remember the life and work of our siblings— Dick Meister and Bob Holtshopple—trusting your promise of everlasting life and love. Be present with us this day as we mark their lives and remember them through the blessing of this tree. May this tree speak of the power of your life in our midst, deeply rooted and ever growing in all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessing of the 2019 Memorial Tree

Prayer of Jesus

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

² Adapted from “Tree Planting.” Let All Creation Praise. Accessed September 24, 2019. <http://www.letallcreationpraise.org/worship-services/tree-planting>.

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

Song for Going Out #528

You Are the Seed³

**You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
You're a star that will shine through the day;
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the night.
You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
You're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
You are a sting and a soft, gentle touch, my witness where're you go.**

Refrain:

**Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
Messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."**

**You are the flame that will brighten the way,
Sending sparkles of hope, faith and love;
You are the shepherds to lead the whole world
through valleys and pastures of peace.
You are the friends that I chose for myself,
The word that I want to proclaim.
You are the city that's built on a rock where justice and truth always reign. *Refrain***

**You are the life that will nurture the plant;
You're the waves in a turbulent sea;
Yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,
A new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide, nor a mountain can cover its might;
May your good deeds show a world in despair a path that will lead all to God. *Refrain***

Benediction

Postlude

To God Be the Glory

Mark Hayes

Worship Leaders: Jonathan Schroerlucke, Jeff Darwin, Pastor Kris

Readers: John Rosch and Lisa Schoenwetter

³ Gabaraín, Cesáreo 1970. Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987; *New Century Hymnal* #528.

Virtual Usher: Steve Gorton

Memorial UCC's ONE LICENSE for streaming: #A-711042



Stay for Virtual Coffee Hour!

Following the service, you are invited to stay for conversation. Bring your own coffee, milk and/or donuts! All you need to do is to stay "in" Zoom as the service ends (don't click "leave meeting").

We will break into small groups that will last about 15 minutes. At the beginning of the breakout, introduce yourself, share how you are doing, and/or share where you have seen the Spirit move in your life this week. At the end of the 15 minutes we will gather again in a larger group and share our experiences.

Conversation Starter: Memorial Tree Blessing—in 1917 our church ancestors gifted us with the name “Memorial.” Whether you are a longtime member, or are new to the congregation, share a story about our church you remember. What brought you here?

