



September 6, 2020

9:30 am

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

This morning we will be sharing Holy Communion together in our online worship. Those who are blessing and receiving the sacrament at home, please prepare a slice or small loaf of bread, corn tortilla, or rice cake to share and a cup or small cups of juice—perhaps grape or cranberry—or wine, with or without alcohol.¹

It is also back to school time! During the Prayers of the People this morning we will share in a Blessing of Technology. Whether you are joining us for worship via Zoom, or FaceBook, we are going to celebrate the specialized tools which connect us during the pandemic. As students, teachers, staff, and administrators begin a new school year, we will acknowledge the many tools we use for learning and building relationships—from low tech pencils and paper to high tech computers and online classrooms.

*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!*

“Make a joyful noise unto God...” Psalm 100:1

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome and Life of the Community (Announcements)

Opening Song

Let Us Break Bread

Ruth Elaine Schram

Call to Worship²

One: Wherever there is love, there is the presence of God.

All: Love is intimate and personal but also collective.

One: Love is communal resistance to practices of evil.

All: Under systems that destroy, holy is the uprising of the faithful.

One: The love of God is not passive; neither is it neutral.

All: Love despises abuse of power. Love practices solidarity with the suffering.

¹ Maren Tirabassi, “Holy Communion Liturgy for September 6, 2020,” Gifts in Open Hands, August 28, 2020, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2020/08/28/12857/holy-communion-liturgy-for-september-6-2020/>.

² Today’s order of worship is adapted from “Liturgy That Matters, September 6, 2020.” Enfleshed, 2020.

One: The healing of the world depends on love.

All: Courageous love. Fierce love. Tender love.

One: Let us worship together that we may learn the ways of love.

Opening Prayer

Spirit of Christ, our hearts are restless for you. We ache for a touch of compassion. We long for healing within and around. We yearn for collective liberation from all that deadens and destroys. In these urgent desires of ours, turn us from impulses to seek change through control. Lead us away from the punitive and guide us in practices of transformation rooted in love and imagination. Amen.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Romans 13:8-14

Time with Children

Rebecca Malke

Special Music

Reflection

Love Summed Up

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

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.

SHARING A MEAL³

As we worship digitally, you are invited to gather elements for communion from your home. Bread, homemade or purchased, an English muffin, a donut can become a sacrament. A cup of water or tea can become a remembrance of God's redeeming love. You can "taste and see that God is good," Psalm 34:8, even if you do not partake). All are welcome at this meal.

Invitation to the Table (from Psalm 81)

Prayer of Consecration

Pastor Kris: In the Bread we eat, we honor farmers and bakers. We honor truck drivers, and those who stock grocery shelves. In the Cup we drink, we honor those who pick fruit, often endangered by pesticides, and those who work in bottling plants.

In Bread and Cup, we honor those who have written, translated, printed, sold, given, and taught the Good News of the new covenant.

All: *(Each person laying hands on bread and cup)*

Holy One, this is the Sacrament we share, because others have passed it on – spiritually and physically – to each of us. We pray that your Spirit of life and love, of tenderness and power, rest upon every bread and every cup, so that they may feed our inmost needs and pour forth a grace that can change the world. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Amen.

Words of Remembering

(the first two stanzas are very loosely adapted from Henry Van Dyke's hymn for Labor Day in public domain ...It is usually sung to Pleading Savior or Beecher).

Pastor Kris: Jesus, our divine companion... reminded us that the bread of welcome on anyone's table, is blessed to be a holy sacrament, sending us out to find the cup in the world around us.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Pastor Kris: The bread on your table is blessed and broken. As long as it is open to all, it is holy.

All: Sharing love, we will never be hungry.

Pastor Kris: The cup on your table is blessed and shared like the overflowing of tears and joy.

All: Drinking deeply, we will never thirst.

³ Adapted from Maren Tirabassi, "Holy Communion Liturgy for September 6, 2020," Gifts in Open Hands, August 28, 2020, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2020/08/28/12857/holy-communion-liturgy-for-september-6-2020/>.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Kris: In thanksgiving for the meal that sustains us in God's Love, strengthening us with extravagant grace for the work ahead, we pray to embrace the hard love that guides us through hard times...

All: O Holy One, we give you thanks for honey in the midst of hard times, hope which strengthens us from fearful thoughts, and bread from the labor of hands and minds. We ask your blessing as we receive this sacrament in the holy dispersion of virtual worship calling us to reach out and change your world one meal, one gathering, one Emmaus joy at a time. Amen

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

Song for Going Out #530 God Our Author and Creator⁴ verses 1 & 3

**God our Author and Creator, in whose life we find our own,
Make our daily witness greater, by our lives make your love known.
Help us show how love embraces those whom fear and greed down trod;
In all yearning hearts and faces let us see a child of God.**

**Keep us faithful, Holy Spirit, help us bear the message true,
That at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."
Join our lives in mighty chorus till we come from every place,
With all those who went before us, to the fullness of God's grace.**

Benediction

Postlude *Rejoice! He Is Lord of All* Benjamin David Knoedler

Worship Leaders:

Jonathan Schroerlucke, Jeff Darwin, Rebecca Malke, Pastor Kris

Readers: Jill Carlson and Marcy Brant

Virtual Usher: Steve Gorton

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

⁴ Hughes, John c. 1907; *New Century Hymnal* #436.



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.



a just
world
for all
ucc.org