**Zion’s United Church of Christ of Taborton**

**Service of the Worship of God**

**Sunday, September 6, 2020**

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Rev. Hafidha F. Saadiqah, Pastor \* Mr. Robert Bondi, Board Moderator

Mr. Conor Frost, Musician

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PRELUDE *Praeludium V* J S Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCMENTS

CALL to WORSHIP

L: I was glad when they said unto me…

**ALL: “Let us go into the house of the Lord!”**

OPENING PRAYER

\*HYMN *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* ELLECOMBE

\*UNISON PRAYER of CONFESSION

**We are workers, God, just like you.**

**But we confess that our actions**

**do not always affirm and honor each other.**

**Our work is not always done in a spirit that is pleasing to you.**

**We confess that, on some occasions,**

**we have blindly bought goods made by people who are paid too little**

**or work in unsafe conditions.**

**We admit that we have failed to end an unjust system**

**in which some workers have jobs that provide good wages and benefits**

**while others may have no job,**

**or one that pays little and provides few, if any, benefits.**

**Creator God,**

**help us to be your people,**

**working for a world where all workers are valued.**

**A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in.**

**A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill.**

**A world where those who serve and care for others –**

**in stores, schools, hotels, restaurants, nursing homes, and many other places –**

**are, themselves, also served and cared for.**

**A world where all workers everywhere**

**share in the abundance that you have given us.**

**Hear us now as we come to you in silence.**

~ written by Edie Rasell, Minister for Economic Justice of the United Church of Christ,

and Vice-President of Interfaith Worker Justice

***\*Words of Assurance (*minister*)***

***\*Gloria Patri* (spoken)**

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit Three in One!

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;

World without end. Amen. Amen.

***\*Offering Signs of Peace***

INTERLUDE *Better Is One Day*  M Redman

INVITATION to STEWARDSHIP

***Doxology (*spoken)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise Godabove, ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication***

**For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of time and labor signify our desire to share and contribute to your coming reign among us. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S TIME

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE (see following page)

SERMONThe Dignity of Work: Justice Over Mercy

INTERLUDE *Better Is One Day*  M Redman

COMMUNION (see following page)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

\*HYMN *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* LINSTEAD

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Dolly “Mi-a-ou”* G Fauré

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***THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US!***

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***Today’s Scriptures:***

*Deuteronomy 24:14-15*

“Do not withhold wages from your workers, for their livelihood depends on them.”

*Isaiah 58:3-7*

“To observe religious practices, but oppress your workers is false worship.”

*Jeremiah 22:13*

“Woe to the one who treats their workers unjustly.”

*Luke 3:10-14*

“Practice integrity in your work.”

*Matthew 20:1-16*

“All workers should be paid a just and living wage.”

**﻿**

**LABOR DAY FLOWER COMMUNION LITURGY**

L:Friends, God worked and created us out of the dust of the ground. From our care of and labor in it we receive nourishment. This same God equips us with gifts and graces to show how all creation is a manifestation of God’s abiding presence among us. Let us together, then, ask God’s blessings upon all of our work.

Just as there are varieties of flowers, so are there varieties of work.

Gracious God, bless the work of our hands.

**P: For farmers and construction workers, for artists and medical professionals, for service workers and teachers, for lawyers and activist.**

**Worker God, bless the work of our hands.**

L: For home and healthcare workers, for sanitation workers and librarians, for grandparents and neighbors who care for the youngest and most vulnerable among us

Laboring God, bless the work of our hands.

**P: For social workers and politicians, for professors and mechanics, for office professionals and clergypersons, for protesters and landscapers.**

**Creative God, bless the work of our hands.**

L: For assembly-line workers and local business owners, for parents and miners, for food-factory workers and hospitality and office workers.

Toiling God, bless the work of our hands.

**P: For those who are self-employed and those who sit in corporate board rooms, for those who are retired and for law and military workers, for professionals who care for the dead and those who work in real estate and finance.**

**Striving God, bless the work of our hands.**

L: For those who experience discrimination and harassment on their jobs, for those who are ill, disabled or cannot work.

Unrelenting God, bless the work of our hands as we reach out to advocate for

justice.

**P: For those who are unemployed, underemployed, or have lost their job because of changing economic conditions.**

**Persevering God, support them through the work of our hands, and through**

**justice that those in power can render. Bless the work of our hands.**

**ALL: Tenacious God, just as there is no greed and selfishness in these flowers, no want or worry, expose those sins in us that we may rid ourselves of them. Fill us with a commitment to live simply so that others may simply live with dignity. May our labor for justice and love be as deep and beautiful and fragrant as these flowers. We offer them and ourselves for the well-being of all things, and for the sake of your Kin-dom which is already among us. Amen.**

A group of people standing in front of a sign

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**HYMNS for THE LORD’S DAY**

**I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD**

HYMN TUNE: ELLACOMBE

LYRICS: Ps. 136:5-9; James 1:17

1. I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,

That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;

The moon shines full at God’s command, and all the stars obey.

1. I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food;

God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.

Oh, how your wonders are displayed, wher-e’er I turn my eye:

If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

1. There’s not a flower or plant below but makes your glory know.

The clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne.

All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;

Wherever people gather, you, O God are present there.

**LET US TALENTS AND TONGUES EMPLOY**

HYMN TUNE: LINSTED

LYRICS: Luke 10:1-9

1. Let us talents and tongues employ,

reaching out with a shout of joy:

bread is broken, the wine is poured,

Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

***Chorus:***

*Jesus lives again,*

*earth can breathe again,*

*pass the Word around:*

*“Loaves abound!”*

1. Christ is able to make us one,

At his table he sets the tone,

Teaching people to love, to bless,

Love in word and in deep express.

***Chorus:***

*Jesus lives again,*

*earth can breathe again,*

*pass the Word around:*

*“Loaves abound!”*

1. Jesus calls us in, sends us out

Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,

Gives us love to tell, bread to share:

God - Immanuel - everywhere!

***Chorus:***

*Jesus lives again,*

*earth can breathe again,*

*pass the Word around:*

*“Loaves abound!”*

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***REMINDERS… REMINDERS… REMINDERS…***

**HOMECOMING** (formerly known as “Rally Day”) is **Sunday September 20th**! Stand-by for more information.

**Don’t Forget Your Church During This Time:** You can give your offering or pledge online at: members.myeoffering.com.

**HAPPY**

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