

WORSHIP OF GOD
FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 12, 2020 Eleven o'clock in the morning

Website: 1stucc.org Facebook: First United Church of Christ-Salisbury

Office Telephone: 704-633-2723

*Whoever YOU are and wherever YOU are on life's journey,
YOU are welcome here in this church!*

PRELUDE *Partita on "For the Beauty of the Earth"*

arr. Mark E. Bloedow

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Where people gather

ALL: God is.

One: Where people come to praise

ALL: God is.

One: Where people come to worship

ALL: God is.

One: Where the Word is spoken

ALL: God is.

One: We gather in joy, in hope, and grace as God's people to
worship and praise God's holy name.

HYMN *Hymn of Promise*

Natalie Sleeth



1. In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree; in co -
2. There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy; there's a
3. In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty; in our



⁵ coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free! In the
dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me. From the
doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty. In our

9 cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be, un-re-
 past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y, _____
 death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry, _____

13 vealed un - til its sea - son, something God a - lone can see.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-715560 United Methodist Hymnal

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: We hear your Word O God, but then sometimes we get distracted. We forget to live out that Word in the world. We hear your Word O God, but sometimes we allow other voices to drown it out. We hear your Word, O God but then sometimes we let fear overwhelm us and we do nothing. Forgive us O God and sow the seeds of faith in our hearts so that we might hear and live your Word each day. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION *(30 seconds of silence is observed for silent confession)*

KYRIE *Lord Have Mercy Upon Us*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Christ, have mercy upon us

Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mercy upon us

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

OUR ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

THE GLORIA PATRI *Halle, Halle, Halleluja*

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-715560 New Century Hymnal

HYMN *Sacred the Body*

1 Sa - cred the bod - y God has cre - at - ed,
 2 Bod - ies are var - ied, made in all siz - es,
 3 Love re - spects per - sons, bod - ies and bound - aries.
 4 Ho - ly of ho - lies, God ev - er lov - ing,

tem - ple of Spir - it that dwells deep in - side.
 pale, full of col - or; both frag - ile and strong.
 Love does not bat - ter, ne - glect, or a - buse.
 make us your tem - ples; in - dwell all we do.

Cher - ish each per - son; nur - ture re - la - tion.
 Ho - ly the dif - ference, gift of the Mak - er,
 Love touch - es gent - ly, nev - er co - erc - ing.
 May we be care - ful, ten - der and car - ing,

1-3	4
-----	---

Treat flesh as ho - ly, that love may a - bide.
 so let us hon - or each sto - ry and song.
 Love leaves the oth - er with pow - er to choose.
 so may our bod - ies give hon - or to you.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-715560 Glory to God Hymnal

HEBREW LESSON

Isaiah 55:10-13

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 8:1-11

SPECIAL MUSIC *Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word*

J. S. Bach

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

One: This is the word of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SERMON "Scattered Seeds"

Rev. Carol Hallman

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: May the Spirit of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Let us pray.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*

pp Devoutly

Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;

Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. A-MEN.

The image shows a musical score for a prayer response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains the lyrics 'Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;'. The second system contains the lyrics 'Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. A-MEN.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Prelude in A Minor*

Johannes Brahms

BLESSING

HYMN *Bringing in the Sheaves*

Blue Hymnal No. 420

1. Sow-ing in the morn-ing, sow-ing seeds of kind-ness, Sow-ing in the
2. Sow-ing in the sun-shine, sow-ing in the shad-ows, Fear-ing nei-ther
3. Go - ing forth with weep-ing, sow-ing for the Mas-ter, Tho the loss sus -

noon-tide and the dew-y eve, Wait-ing for the har-vest and the
clouds nor win-ter's chill-ing breeze; By and by the har-vest and the
tained our spir-it oft-en grieves; When our weep-ing's o-ver He will

time of reap-ing- We shall come re-joic-ing, bring-ing in the sheaves.
la-bor end-ed- We shall come re-joic-ing, bring-ing in the sheaves.
bid us wel-come- We shall come re-joic-ing, bring-ing in the sheaves.

CHORUS

Bring-ing in the sheaves, bring-ing in the sheaves, We shall come re -

joic-ing, bring-ing in the sheaves. joic-ing, bring-ing in the sheaves.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in three verses, with a chorus section. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Praise and Thanksgiving, Father We Offer*

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Assisting in Worship

Rev. Carol Hallman, Resident Pastor
Dr. Phillip Burgess, Choir Director ***Susan Trivette***, Organist
Mark Schiemann and Jeff Smith

Flowers on the Altar Today are Given to the Glory of God

Attendance

July 5, 2020

208 Views

230 Engagements

192 Reached

Thank you Dr. Burgess for last week's beautiful altar flowers.

Sincere appreciation is extended to ***Dr. Phillip Burgess, Susan Trivette, Jeff Smith*** and ***Mark Schiemann*** for their dedication to Sunday Morning Online Worship Services.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Javis Arey, Mary Austin, Mabel Barnhardt, Betty Bowles (mother of Steve Bowles), Destony Bowles, Julia Callaway, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Marie Cuthrell, Sarah Hall (friend of Bobbie Troutman), Gary Hauze (no visits or phone calls, please), Harry & Nancy Hipp, Anne Kennedy, Johnnie Lippard (friend of Steve Bowles), Dan Morgan (friend of Steve Bowles), Jimmy Mullis (friend of Daniel Artz), Joseph Najarian (son of Dena & David Najarian), Pat Norris, Roger & Betty Olson (Kim Profitt's parents), Eleanor Peeler, Savannah Price (Larry Bolick's nephew's granddaughter), Glenda Shrewsbury, Sarah Shuping, Claire Skinner, Crystal Smith (niece of Bobbie Troutman), Nick Snipes, Donnie Troutman, Jeff Watson (Larry Bolick's nephew), John Wagoner, Don Whitfield (no calls please), Janette Yost. ***If you know of anyone who should be added or deleted from our prayer list, be sure and let the office know. If you have prayer concerns, please text, call or email Pastor Carol.***

Sunday, July 12

4:00.....Property Committee Meeting
7:00.....Zoom Check-In

Tuesday, July 14

10:00.....Online Storytime with Pastor Carol

Wednesday, July 15

5:30.....Executive Council Board Meeting

Thursday, July 16

6:00.....Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, July 19

12:30.....Church Council Meeting



Please remember 5-Alive donations. Your contributions with a notation for the 5-Alive Fund are always needed and appreciated. Giving to the 5-Alive Fund is helpful at any time and is used to help those in our church and within our community.

From First UCC Foundation:

The First United Church of Christ Foundation has begun the selection process for awarding the annual distribution of funds. An application for your organization to use in applying for funds is available by contacting the **Church office** at **704-633-2723** or via email at **office@1stucc.org** (please note this is a new email for the Church). We respectfully request that you complete and return this form to the Foundation by August 17, 2020. Applications may be emailed to **office@1stucc.org** or by regular mail (**207 West Horah Street, Salisbury, NC 28144**). Applications must be postmarked on or before **August 17** to be considered for the 2020 distribution of funds.

If your organization is selected to receive a distribution, you will be notified by September 20, 2020. It is essential that you have a representative attend the eleven o'clock worship service at First United Church of Christ at a date to be decided on in October 2020 to participate in the presentation ceremony.

Greg Alcorn, Chairman
First UCC Foundation

Church Finances During an Unexpected Pandemic

Summer has historically been a time in our church finances when giving tended to fall off as members took vacations and were away from church; in many years, people would catch up their tithing once they returned to attend more regularly and our finances would recover. With the social distancing that has come with this pandemic, attending streaming church services from the comfort of your home, it may come as no surprise that contributions to our church have fallen off. Your Finance Committee and your Council are determined not to impact our paid staff negatively if at all possible, and meanwhile the fixed operating expenses (and a couple of surprises) continue. The Finance Committee is forecasting a \$36,000 shortfall in Current Fund income through the remainder of the year. Various committees and persons have suggested and implemented cost reduction efforts where it has been deemed feasible. Our members continue to experience a variety of changes in their livelihoods, which can make contributing to church challenging.

We have been very fortunate to receive some welcome news regarding two different funding sources! Our church was awarded a COVID-19 micro grant from our UCC denomination. In our application, we indicated that we could use funds for mission work where we planned to continue to prepare meals for Rowan Helping Ministries quarterly, as well as gifts of food donations via the Little Red Wagon; we also indicated the need for expanded internet bandwidth for streaming services, which reaches more folk than just our own membership, and additional cleaning supplies that will be needed when we are able to conduct in person gatherings again. We also applied for and were granted a PPP loan which we can use to pay our staff payroll for about 10 weeks (provided that we don't layoff or terminate anyone). The loan is at low interest of 1%, and if we keep our employees, there is a strong probability it may be forgiven!

If your resources are stable, please continue to give as you are able. The bright spots of the micro grant and the PPP loan are significant, but are very specific about what items they can be applied to, and are of relatively short duration. These will help to offset some of the shortfall we are experiencing, but we continue to depend on faithful givers to carry us through. There are many ways to make a contribution. You can drop your offering in the mail, send it through your online banking system, or donate through PayPal. We thank you for your continued support of our Church.

Mark Schiemann
Chair, Finance Committee

A Letter from Church Council Vice President

Dear 1st UCC Family,

As we approach a 3-month removal from face-to-face worship and gatherings I wanted to take time to share a few of the victories and struggles of recent weeks.

Although we have not been physically in the same room or in our sanctuary as a family of Christ in some time, there is astounding evidence our church has been open! I want to thank Pastor Carol and so many of you for continuing to ensure we stay connected. From the wonderful concerts, continued Bible study, children's story time, donations to our healthcare workers, visits to our children during Easter, to our live stream worship services on Sunday mornings, we continue our mission of realizing Christian fellowship. Nothing can stop the spread of God's love and our fellowship.

Church Council, as well as a Task Force consisting of myself, Pastor Carol, Mark Schiemann, Carolyn Cline, David Waller, and Leslie Dent, continue to monitor the current situation, educate ourselves regarding COVID-19, closely follow guidance from the UCC, and evaluate our options. While we are all having to make personal decisions regarding our own health and potential risks we may face; making decisions regarding the health and safety of our larger church family is a great responsibility.

I wanted to raise a few of the issues the Church Council and Task Force are challenged with while contemplating when we might again be able to worship together in the sanctuary. We are all aware of the need to practice social distancing and the benefits of face coverings, but when we think about our traditional worship service, simple things like handing out bulletins, the use of hymnals, congregational responses and singing become areas of concern. For example, singing extends the distance of aerosolized droplets being carried in the air further than normal conversations. We also realize some of the normal amenities offered during worship may be altered or not available – the nursery and limitations of restroom availability.

Returning to physically gathering for worship would look very different than our traditional service, and far from “normal”. Hymnals and pew pads would be removed, and the sanctuary would be sanitized on Saturday evening in preparation for Sunday morning. You would practice social distancing outside, at one entrance, while awaiting temperature checks before being allowed to enter the church. There would be no bulletins. Families living under the same roof could sit together, but seating would be staggered across pews while skipping pews to allow for appropriate social distancing. Singing would not be allowed. Congregational responses would not be allowed. The

nursery would be closed. Only one or two bathrooms would be open and available to only one person at a time. Gathering in the vestibule would be discouraged and it is likely we enter and leave the sanctuary in an organized and orchestrated way.

I know I continue to struggle with balancing a desire for us to gather and physically worship together with ensuring the continued safety of all our church family. I also struggle with whether the worship service described above is greater than continuing our successful virtual fellowship. The continuing guidance from the UCC is for congregations to not rush back to face-to-face worship. I believe not rushing is prudent advice. I ask you to not only pray for our church, our church family, and our leaders who are faced with these challenging decisions, but that you also reach out to me, Pastor Carol, Council and Task Force members to share your thoughts and opinions.

I am grateful for the love and connections we continue to share, even though we are not able to greet each other with handshakes, embraces, and hugs. The doors to our church building may not yet be open again, but the fellowship we share, and the love and grace of God have never been closed.

Jeff Smith