

St. John's UCC, Fullerton



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We Worship, We Love, We Serve –
No Matter What!

September 19, 2021
17th Sunday after Pentecost

St. John's UCC, Fullerton
17th Sunday after Pentecost – September 19, 2021

~ We Worship ~

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Variations on Restoration”

Janet Linker

Please rise in body and/or spirit.

Call to Worship

One: People of God, we come to this place from many different places and situations. Let us be open to the guidance of the Spirit.

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

One: People of God, we gather from many walks of life, each of us at different ages and stages. Let us be open to renewal by the Spirit. Let us say,

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

One: Wherever we find ourselves this morning, whether we are gathered here in person or online, we are united by the Spirit. The gift of the Spirit is yet another sign of God's endless grace for us.

All: Come, Holy Spirit! Amen.

Opening Hymn

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

#295, v. 1,2,3

*I sing a song of the saints of God, faithful their whole lives through,
who bravely la-bored, lived and died for the God they loved and knew. And one was a doctor, and
one was a queen, and another a shepherd in pastures green
They were saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God, help me to be one, too.*

*They loved their God and they lived that love.
It was loving that made them strong. They did what was right, for Jesus' sake, lived justly their
whole lives long.*

*And one was a prophet, and one was a priest, and another was slain by a fierce wild beast:
there is no earthly reason, none in the least, why I shouldn't be one, too.*

*They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still. The world is filled with
living saints who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea, in a church, in a train, in a ship, or at tea; for
the saints are folk like you and like me, and I mean to be one, too.*

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Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we too often focus on the differences among us, rather than celebrating what we share in common. Help us to remember we are siblings to all of humanity, each and all of us created in your image. When we choose conflict, redirect our thoughts and actions to your love and your call to love each other. God in your mercy, forgive us.

(Time for silent prayer.)

Words of Assurance

Praise Response

“And God Will Raise You Up”

#775

***And God will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn.
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of God's hands.***

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Please be seated.

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 54
Mark 9:30-37

Connie Viglione

Sacrament of Baptism - Cameron Eric Laders

Baptism Hymn

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

#325, v. 1,2,3,4

***Child of blessing, child of promise,
Baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.
Child of love, our love's expression love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.***

***Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we gumbly give you;
live as one who bears Christ's name.***

***Child of God your loving Parent, l
earn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.***

Sermon

Do Not Be Afraid

Rev. Jameson Baxter

Musical Offering

“Something for Thee”

Craig Courtney

Gregg Fisher, vocal solo

~ We Love ~

Morning Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

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

“Spirit of the Living God” #283

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

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Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God

Please rise in body and/or spirit.

Doxology

#780

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

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Offertory Prayer

Thank you, gracious God, for the blessings you have given us. Receive this offering, we pray, not just of money but also of our lives offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. May all that we have offered here help bring forth more love and justice in the world. Amen.

~ We Serve ~

Hymn

“Jesus Loves Me”

#327, v. 1,2,3

*Jesus loves me!
This I know, for the Bible tells me so,
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.*

Refrain

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me!
This I know, as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, saying “let them come to me.”*

Refrain

*Jesus loves me!
Still today, walking with me on my way, wanting as a friend to give light and love to all
who live.*

Refrain

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Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

“Variation on Restoration”

Janet Linker

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*Altar flowers in honor my grandson, Rowan Rarich Lord’s second birthday. By Susan Rarich
Altar flowers in honor of 57th wedding anniversary, on 9/17/2021, and in honor of Nancy
Eichman’s 76th birthday. By Ronald Eichman*