



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for 10/16/2022, **Access & Disability Ministries Sunday**
Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

“Disability is not a ‘brave struggle’ or ‘courage in the face of adversity’
...disability is an art. It’s an ingenious way to live.” ~ *Neil Marcus*

Prelude & Receiving the Light of Christ:

Andantino

N. Gade

Jonathan Geer, piano / Amy Harris, violin / Liz Lee, cello

Welcome

Words for Centering:

from Thomas Ryan, *Reclaiming the Body in Christian Spirituality*, p.24

“We have not been burdened with this world and this flesh in order that we might weasel our way out. Rather, we have been gifted with this world and these bodies because this is where God dwells. All flesh is holy, and the ground of all human endeavors is sacred. It is in these bodies that we will work out our salvation. Human bodies are part of God’s image and the means through which absolutely everything we can learn about God must come to us.”

***Hymn of Celebration:** Black Hymnal #286 “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

Listening To the Sacred Text: Responsive Reading from Genesis 1:1-31 (NRSV)

1 In the beginning when God created^[a] the heavens and the earth, **2** the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep... **3** Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good.

9 **And God said, ‘Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so.** **10** **God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.**

11 Then God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation...’ **12** The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.

14 **And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night...’** **16** **God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God saw that it was good.**

20 And God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.’ **21** So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁴ And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.’ And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind^[a] in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,^[a] and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’ ²⁷ So God created humankind^[a] in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good...

1 Corinthians 12: 4-7, 12-21, 26 (NRSV, Anglicised)

Kay Pruett, Liturgist

Reflecting:

“And God saw that it was Good”

Carolyn Thompson

***Hymn of Reflection:** Black Hymnal #495 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

Offering invitation

Offertory Music:

Intermezzo sinfonico from Cavalleria Rusticana

P. Mascagni

***Doxology** (Tune: *All Creatures Of Our God and King*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

I’ve spent many years learning how to fix life, only to discover at the end of the day that life is not broken. / There is a hidden seed of greater wholeness in everyone and everything. / We serve life best when we water it and befriend it. When we listen before we act. / In befriending life, we do not make things happen according to our own design. We uncover something that is already happening in us and around us and create conditions that enable it. / Everything is moving toward its place of wholeness, always struggling against the odds. / Everything has a deep dream of itself and its fulfillment.

(“Everything Has a Deep Dream” by Rachel Naomi Remen, from *My Grandfather’s Blessings* - composed as a poem by Meg Wheatley)

Holy God, may the gifts we offer today help to bring about this Holy wholeness in our community both near and far. In Jesus name, Amen.

***Sending Song:** Black Hymnal #283 “Spirit (Mercy, Kindness, Spirit) of the Living God” (4x)

***Benediction**

Postlude:

Allegro con brio from Sonata in G Major

J. B. Loeillet

*** Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.**