



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for 10/23/2022, **Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost**
Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

Zoom link for Joys & Concerns: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2057847210>

Link to PDF of Hymns for larger print:

Prelude & Receiving the Light of Christ: Preludio from Sonata in E minor J.S. Bach

Welcome

Invocation: “Scandalous God (adapted)” (*liturgy by www.enfleshed.com*)

Divine Presence, Scandalous One, Versatile God,
You have been called the worst of names, tossed aside by the hands of tradition,
met with violence and neglect by stranger and kin alike.
And still, you do not conform to the expectations of power or polite your way into halls of
destruction. You, the ultimate transgressor of norms that harm or confine,
bear witness to the glory of Strange.
You, Queer One, reveal the gifts of falling outside the lines. You, Wild One, break open
possibilities – within us and around us – whispering in our ear,
...You help us come alive again...
May your spirit be awakened in every space dull with repressed delight,
that we may choose to live into the riches of this peculiar life together.
Embrace us, O God, and lead us in the ways of your love...Amen.

***Hymn of Celebration:** Black Hymnal #473 “Blessed Assurance”

***Prayer for Illumination** (Unison)

*Passionate One, your love for us was so great that you queered every boundary working
against our ability to perceive you. When we imagined you as beyond us, in the heavens,
distant from our ordinary life, you took on flesh like ours and queered the boundaries
between divinity and creation. You revealed to us that you are within us, around us, and
beyond us. Open our hearts, O God, to the sacredness that knows no boundaries.
In the Incarnate One we pray, Amen.*

Listening To the Sacred Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (NRSV)

Reflecting: "Thorn In the Flesh" Britt Hicks, preaching

***Hymn of Reflection:** Black Hymnal #448 "Take My Life, Let It Be"

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

*Leader: We, of many backgrounds and identities, personalities, and ideas,
gather collectively in shared pursuit of the Sacred.*

All: Together, we make up the body of Christ.

Leader: Wherever one of us is in pain, our whole body aches.

All: Whenever one of us is cut off, the whole body is wounded.

*Leader: Whoever is kept away by discriminatory policies or practices or prejudices,
our collective soul suffers the loss of their presence.*

All: We need one another in order to be whole.

Leader: God, make us the body of Christ as you envisioned.

***All: May we become your presence enfleshed, in service to the world and one
another. Amen.***

Offering invitation

Offertory Music: Largo Espressivo G. Pugnani

Offering our gifts and our prayers

***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**

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

***Benediction**

Postlude: Tambourin A. E. Grétry

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

Leading In Today's Service:

Anya Toskey, Deacon on Duty
John Goff, Livestream Technician
Jonathan Geer, Piano
Liz Lee, Cello

Stephen Russell, Usher
Radhika Sthanu, Liturgist
Amy Harris, Violin