



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for 11/20/2022

Reign of Christ Sunday

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: Improvisation on “For the Beauty of the Earth”

Welcome

Call to Worship:

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Many: We gather to celebrate another day that God has kept us.

One: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change.

Many: We gather to bear witness to all that God has done for us.

One: Come, behold the works of God!

Many: We gather to worship our God who loves and protects us.

***Hymn of Celebration:** Black Hymnal #28 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

***Invocation** (Unison)

*Though many forces have scattered us in various ways,
we invite you, Holy One, to bring us together within ourselves and all around us.
Prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits, Gathering God, to be present and
ready to receive exactly what we need from this time of worship. Amen.*

Listening To the Sacred Text: Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43 (NRSV)

Listening for the Spirit in Silence:

Word and words, O God. Help us to hear the One among the many.

Reflecting: “Against Christian Nationalism”

***Hymn of Reflection:** Black Hymnal #591 “This Is My Song”

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life** (Unison)

It's so easy for us to get caught up in our human-made divisions. Whether survival instincts or capitalistic drive, we separate ourselves from those who don't look, think, or act like us. We unintentionally allow our differences to stain the beauty of your diversity. Our many different households, family structures, belief systems, and various identities become tools of divisiveness rather than gifts of the divine.

<observe a brief stretch of silence>

Even when we cling to the things that unnecessarily separate us, God unscatters us. No matter who we are or what has brought us to this very moment, God chooses to love us back to wholeness, individually and communally. Hallelujah and amen!

Observing Transgender Day of Remembrance

Offering invitation

Offertory Music: "Great God of Earth and Heaven" Black Hymnal #579

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 #436 "God of Grace and God of Glory" (v. 1-2)

***Benediction**

Postlude: Allegro con brio from Trio Op. 1 No. 3 L. van Beethoven

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

Leading In Today's Service:

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Jen Howicz, Livestream Technician

Amy Harris, Violin

Bill Beardall, Usher & Liturgist

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Liz Lee, Cello

Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday were written by *The Rev. Phiwa Langeni, Ambassador for Innovation & Engagement for the UCC's Center for Analytics, Research & Development, and Data (CARDD).*