



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ  
Order of Worship for 5/21/2023

**Seventh Sunday of Easter ~ Mental Health Awareness Sunday**

Rev. Amelia K. Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

**Prelude**

Improvisation on "I've Got Peace Like a River"

**Welcome & Opening Sentences**

**Call to Worship** (Today's liturgy is drawn from resources provided by the UCC Mental Health Network.)

*One: Come, let us worship God who is creating a new heaven and a new earth. Today is a new day, a fresh start, and a day of new beginnings.*

***All: Come, let us worship God who creates peace out of chaos, calm out of anxiety, and hope out of despair. Even when we are depressed, we trust God is with us.***

*One: Come, let us praise God who chooses to be among us, one of us, a Disabled and Neurodiverse God dwelling among us living with mental health challenges, substance use disorders, brain injuries, and neurodiversity.*

***All: Come, let us praise God who says to each one of us, "no matter who we are or what medications we take or our diagnoses or where we are on life's journey: I will be your God."***

*One: Come, let us give thanks to God who promises to wipe away every tear from our eyes.*

***All: Come, let us give thanks to God who loves us so much that death, mourning, crying, and pain cannot stop God from loving us. This is our greatest hope: we are held in God's love.***

***Come, let us rejoice, for God, the Alpha and Omega, is making all things new!***

**\*Hymn of Celebration:**

"Let Us Build a House"

Glory to God #301

**Listening To the Sacred Text:**

Luke 8:26-39

**Listening for the Spirit in Silence**

**Anthem**

"O Love of God" ~ CCA Choir

White

**Reflecting**

Rev. Dr. Ann Locasio

**Litany of Naming**

*Leader: On this Mental Health Sunday, we join in this Litany of Naming.*

**People: As a congregation we are glad to lift up our voices and our spirits to break the silence that often happens when we are confronted with mental illness.**

*L: As a faith community, we name the gifts and the often unnamed experiences which come to those who live with a mental illness such as major depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder, schizophrenia, substance use, addiction, historic and generational trauma, racial trauma, grief and eating disorder. We name:*

**P: The Hope which upholds our spirit through honest sharing;**

*L: The Pain when people turn away because of fear;*

**P: The Courage to speak in a safe place the way that Jesus spoke truth with love;**

*L: The Strength from being with others who listen compassionately;*

**P: The Isolation that comes when no one knows what to say;**

*L: The Realization that mental illnesses and brain disorders can be managed;*

**P: The Exhaustion that comes with living with a mental illness as well as for those who are caregivers;**

*L: The Welcome of mental health as part of our church's ministry and outreach;*

**P: The Wisdom that comes when we become educated about mental health;**

*L: The Spirituality that comes when we walk alongside those who show both resilience and vulnerability in their lives affected by mental illness;*

**All: We receive these gifts that we have named, those which are welcomed and those that are challenges. We come before you, our God, knowing we are not alone and that You will show us a way to be and live. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Reflection:** "When Peace, Like a River" New Century Hymnal #438

### **Invitation to Generosity**

Offertory Music: Giga from Sonata 3 in C Major A. Corelli

**\*Doxology** (Tune: *Old Hundredth*, New Century Hymnal #780)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God, all creatures here below.*

*Praise God for all that love has done.*

*Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

### **Announcements**

**\*Sending Song:** "The Day of Resurrection" New Century Hymnal #245

### **\*Benediction**

**Postlude:** Allegro from Sonata 1 in D Major A. Corelli

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

### **Leading In Today's Service:**

Laura Martin, Dir. of Music

Britt Hicks, Dir. of Online Ministries

Jen Howicz, Usher & Liturgist

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Amy Harris, violin