



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ

Order of Worship for 7/2/2023

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Rev. Amelia K. Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

Prelude.

Summerland (excerpt) by William Grant Still

Welcome & Opening Sentences

***Hymn of Celebration:**

“What Is This Place”

Glory to God #404

Invocation (prayer by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian)

God of small sanctuaries and large halls, we listen and look for your presence immediately surrounding us, energizing us to serve the world outside.

And today we know that many of our neighbors and friends are gathering in Indianapolis for General Synod as they celebrate faith, reflect on your calling, seek justice and kindness, and inhale the invigorating breath of the Spirit. We pray for their wisdom, Holy One. May your wisdom carry them from one moment to the next as they search for the depths of your love. We pray for their endurance, Loving Spirit. Throughout the long days of Synod, may they find rest and renewal, moments of hopeful silence and joyous laughter. We pray for their strength, Divine Redeemer.

May your courage permeate their hearts as they speak and vote, and may your Holy Curiosity open their souls to new stories.

May each of us be willing to open our souls to new words, new sounds, new stories, and new songs.

Your Kin-dom can be found from the conversation between two people drinking coffee to the most distant of galaxies across the universe. May we see how to serve the Church and your children from within the walls of our individual sanctuaries to the streets surrounding us to the farthest spaces in our world. Amen.

Listening To the Sacred Text:

Matthew 10:34-39

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

Reflecting in Community

“The Sword & Apathy”

Rev. Dr. CJ Wood, preaching

***Hymn for Communion:**

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

Glory to God #529

Worship Gift

Ann Locasio

Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Lord's Prayer ~ Unison (New Zealand/Maori Anglican Liturgy, adapted)

*Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father~Mother~Parent of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.*

Words of Institution

Sharing the Meal

Communion Hymn: Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face New Century Hymnal #336

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Music: Short Adagio by Ralph Vaughn Williams

***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:** "Amen, siyakudumisa" New Century Hymnal #760

*Benediction

Postlude: Merry-Go-Round of Life by Joe Hisaishi

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

Leading In Today's Service:

Laura Martin, Director of Music Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries
Sarah Darter, Usher Hannah Mindeman Shuman, Piano Liz Lee, Cello