



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for 8/6/2023
Tenth Sunday After Pentecost
Rev. Amelia K. Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

Prelude. "Prelude for Cello and Piano" Geer

Welcome & Call to Worship

(today's prayers are by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lindsay, UCC Minister for Worship & Theology)

One: The Word is a lamp and a light. The Word illuminates our life.

Many: We welcome The Word with praise and thanksgiving.

One: The Word comes from the mouth of God and accomplishes its purpose.

Many: We hear The Word that loves and embraces, challenges and convicts, renews and restores.

One: The Word is life, offers a future with hope, and creates peace in the midst of the storm.

Many: We receive The Word among us with rejoicing. We worship The Word in spirit and in truth!

***Hymn of Celebration:** "Praise to the Living God" New Century Hymnal #8

Invocation (Unison)

Creator, your presence among us illuminates our lives. Make us fertile soil, receptive to the seeds planted by your word. Nourish us with Living Water and grow us through the energy of your empowered and healing rays of sunshine. Let us encounter you afresh as we gather in community. May our worship show our love for you and each other. Make your presence known to us and through us for your glory. Amen.

Listening To the Sacred Text: Matthew 13:1-9,18-23 (*The Message* translation)

Reflecting in Community "Gravel, Weeds, and Dirt! Oh my." Britt Hicks

***Hymn of Reflection:** "As We Gather at Your Table" New Century Hymnal #332

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

Invitation to Generosity

"How might we be abundant? And in what ways are we still in need?" ~ Rev. Dr. Elyse Berry

Offertory Music: "Terra Incognita" Geer

***Doxology** (Tune: *All Creatures of Our God & King, Glory to God #15*)

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**

Announcements

***Sending Song:** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" Glory to God #306
(two verses)

*Benediction

Postlude: "Gavotte" Handel

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

Leading In Today's Service:

Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries
Jonathan Geer, Piano

Sarah Darter, Usher & Liturgist
Liz Lee, Cello