



Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Tom Williams

November 19, 2017

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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Meet & Greet

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Leader – Congregation)

Leader: Called to be thankful we are so often overwhelmed by the stress and pressure of obligations, expectations. Enable us to find here a place of joy, a time of celebration without obligation, without expectation except faith in an ever present, ever loving God.

Congregation: We gather to give thanks for a worshipping community which dares to open itself to our fears; our hopes and enables each to grow in faith, give thanks without evaluation...

Leader: Worship marks a time for renewal, rebirth and recommitment to a joyous journey working for peace, witnessing to justice and celebrating kindness.

Congregation: Come let us listen together for God's word and God's call.

All: Come let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN #421 (NCH) "We Gather Together"

WE WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious and Most Merciful God, in a world filled with poverty, degradation, and oppression, we prepare to gather

around tables laden with a bounteous feast in homes filled with stuff. Enable us to dare to give thanks in the midst of such abundance and to dare to consider how you call us to not simply give thanks but work to overcome hunger, poverty and hatred as a witness to that call. And, as we continue on this journey, we pray that You continue to call us to be makers of peace, doers of justice, practitioners of kindness. Hear now our silent prayers of things we have done and things we have failed to do.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Amen. Let us say what we truly believe.

All: Our confessions are witness to our belief that as we forgive others, God forgives us and that forgiveness is assured by our faith in God's continuing presence as promised by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus whom we believe to be the Christ. Therefore, we declare and accept God's forgiveness. AMEN.

*THE GLORIA PATRI "Glory Be to the Father"

WE SHARE IN GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 4:1-7
Matthew 25:14-30

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON "Of Problematic Parables and Women who Judge"

WE JOIN OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

PRAYER HYMN #425 (NCH) "For the Fruit of All Creation"

TIME OF PRAYER Pastoral Prayer - Silent Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

IN THANKFULNESS WE PRESENT OUR OFFERING

PRESENT OUR GIFTS: *We are on the way with you, gracious God. We put our faith in you. Bless our giving and our gifts.*

OFFERTORY

*Offering Response

Doxology - "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*OFFERTORY PRAYER (unison)

Gracious and Loving God, as stewards of that which has been shared with us, we are grateful for the opportunity to share with this congregation and its ministries. Enable us to use this offering, we pray, in ways that continue to be responsive to Your call to feed the hungry, lift up the broken hearted, welcome the stranger. And we give thanks that as stewards of these gifts, that call continues to be heard and welcomed in our midst. Amen.

WE ARE SENT FORTH

*CLOSING HYMN #495 (NCH)

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

*When you see an * in the bulletin, you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*