

July 14, 2024

Greeting and Announcements

Welcome Statement (Printed on the bulletin insert)

Silence ...a time to breathe...

Prelude and Bringing in the Light

***Call to Worship**

Align our actions with our dreams for the world.

Protect us from distraction, Steadfast One.

Teach us to ignore those who profit from our diversion.

Protect us from distraction, Steadfast One.

Plant our attention in what gives us life.

Protect us from distraction, Steadfast One.

Like a flower towards sun,

ground us in the warmth of your presence.

Turn our faces in the direction of your Love.

*** 1st Hymn NCH #4** "Joyful, Joyful. We adore you"

***Prayer (Unison). We are often too tired to listen for the whisperings of the World to Come. With the culture of Empire invested in our isolation, we often reach for distraction to soothe our ache for connection.**

***The Promise** Liberating Spirit, help us to focus on your kin-dom. Ground us in the world of community and reciprocity rather than consumption and power. Hold us tenderly in the present moment, that mindful wonder may weave through our ordinary living. You made us for love. Amen

For which we all say.....

Thanks be to God!

***Sung Response**

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift up your voices the Lord is near. Lift up your voices the Lord is near

Invitation to the Table

Without exception, everyone is welcome at this table. So if you're hungry, or even just curious, please come and taste.

Kid's Time

Hebrew Bible

Amos 7:7-15

Christian Scripture

Mark 6:14-29

Sermon

Hymn NCH 526 "We are marching in the light of God"

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

***Sung Response**

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

***Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

Ground of Being, out of our love for each other, we are invited to compassionate ways of living. Rooted in the wisdom of the present moment and in the logic of liberation. Bless our offerings to our spiritual growth and to steadfastness in causes of righteousness. Amen.

***Closing Hymn NCH #575**

"O for a World"

***Benediction**

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Cliff Lawton

Radio Sponsor: Jamie & Karen Wittwer, in memory of Jamies' Mom Margaret Wittwer.

If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast call the church office at 608-643-8387 to check on available dates. Cost is now at \$90.00/week. Your support of this important ministry is much appreciated. Our next available dates are August 25th, Sept 15th, Sept 29th, Oct 20th, Nov 3rd, Nov 10th, & Dec 1st.

Address Changes—If your phone number, mailing or email address changes please send the new address to the church office so we can keep our records up to date.

From our Stock the Schools campaign—suggested donations for July: Backpacks (sturdy with working zippers) small for elementary students, larger for middle & high school students and pencil pouches.

First Reading:

Amos 7: 7-15

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸ And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said, “See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will spare them no longer; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, “Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.” And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there, but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.” Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet nor a prophet’s son, but I am a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

Christian Scripture:

Mark 6: 14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’s name had become known. Some were saying, “John the baptizer has been raised from the dead, and for this reason these powers are at work in him.” But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.” For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because Herod^[e] had married her. For John had been telling Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests, and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.” And he swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” She replied, “The head of John the baptizer.” Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” The king was deeply grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.