

August 22, 2021 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Your Worship Leader this Morning is Pastor Bill Kapp!

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell

Greeting

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 419 - The second verse of today's opening hymn starts with "O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us." Today's opening hymn is "Now Thank We All Our God."

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: With profound happiness, we welcome one another. How good it is to approach the courts of our God!

Congregation: Happy are those who live in God's house! Singing our praise to God fills us with joy.

Liturgist: Here we welcome both friend and stranger. All peoples of the earth are God's children.

Congregation: We greet one another by name in Jesus' name. Together we extol the name of our God.

Liturgist: Open your hearts to receive new strength. Open your lives to renewed understandings.

Congregation: Surely God will equip us to face our world. We will be ambassadors for God wherever we go.

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 247 - "My Shepherd Is the Living God" - Inspired by the 23rd Psalm, this hymn closes the first verse with "And lead me for your mercy's sake in paths of truth and peace."

Confession of Sin

Alert us now, eternal Spirit, to your presence among us in this place. Together, we confess that we have been busy with so many things that we have often forgotten you. We have made little gods out of buildings and furnishings and programs. Sometimes our pet beliefs and interpretations have been all-consuming as we do battle to correct others and presume to defend you. We have forgotten that your love is stronger than any force on earth. Forgive our mistrust of its power and drive us back into the company of disciples who are learning and growing in love. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri

Old Testament Lesson – Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Hymn of Praise (Recorded) – “Will the Circle Be Unbroken?” First UCC Choir

Epistle Lesson – Ephesians 6:10-20

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord’s Prayer

Offering & Offertory - 17 - St. Francis of Assisi wrote the lyrics for today’s Offertory. Ralph Vaughan Williams created the arrangement in 1906.

Gospel Lesson – John 6:56-69

Sermon

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 329 - “Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts - Loosely connected to today’s Gospel, this hymn was based on a 42 verse Latin poem. The last verse closes with “Oh, chase the cloud of sin away! Shed o’er the world your holy light!”

Benediction

Postlude