

## September 12, 2021 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Ring of the bell

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 84 - "This Is the Day!" seem totally appropriate for the beginning of Sunday School and Confirmation.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Come away from dullness and complacency. Wake up! God is calling us to listen and learn.

Pastor and Congregation: The heavens are telling the glory of God. The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

Liturgist: How long will we refuse the wisdom God offers? How long will we ignore God's counsel and reproof?

Pastor and Congregation: The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple.

Liturgist: Our waywardness separates us from God. Then, when we call on God, we hear no answer.

Pastor and Congregation: We gather to renew our relationship with God. We seek enlightenment and the revival of our souls.

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 204 - This hymn, like so many are crafted by ordained pastors. Charles Everest served his parish in Connecticut for 31 years. "Take Up Your Cross,' the Savior Said" is from a collection of hymns titled "Visions of Death and Other Poems."

Confession of Sin

God of all worlds, we confess our arrogance in turning away from the knowledge you offer and the relationship with us that you desire. We make light of your commandments and scoff at discipline and boundaries as if they did not apply to us. Our tongues reveal our ignorance before the vastness of your truth. The words we speak in error spread poison that cannot be contained. Our waywardness is destroying us. Our complacency before evil, within us and all around, threatens life itself. O God, we cry out for forgiveness. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri (Instrumental)

Old Testament Lesson – Proverbs 1:20-33

Commissioning of Christian Education Staff

Children's Sermon

Hymn of Praise (Recorded) – "Rain Down" performed by the First UCC Choir

Epistle Lesson – James 3:1-12

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Offering & Offertory - NCH 474 - "I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me" is a spiritual, gospel and folk song that closes with "Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me."

Gospel Lesson – Mark 8:27-38

Sermon

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 191 - "Before Your Cross, O Jesus" was written in 1929 and closes with the phrase, "...and make us brave and full of joy to answer to your call."

Benediction

Postlude