

September 19, 2021 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Ring of the Bell

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 161 - "See Jesus at the seashore, preaching to the people, healing all the sick ones! See Jesus on the cross, bearing all my sins, in bitter agony!" are lines from "Amen, Amen." This social justice hymn is partly inspired by today's Gospel.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you. Happy are those who find delight in God's law.

Congregation: God is always nearer than our next breath. We gather to become more aware of that presence.

Liturgist: Knowledge of God is a delight to the righteous. They seek to grow in wisdom and understanding.

Congregation: There is always more to discover than we know. God is our teacher and helper and judge.

Liturgist: Put your trust in God as you prepare to serve. Learn to be peaceable, gentle, and merciful.

Congregation: We seek to do good and not harm all our days. We would open our hands to the poor and needy.

Hymn (Instrumental) - Taken from a long poem by Fortunatus, this hymn tells a story beginning with the tree in the Garden of Eden and ends with the cross. NCH 220 is "Sing, My Tongue."

Confession of Sin

Forgive us, God, for our complacent attitudes and self-serving comforts. We do not relish the thought of sacrificing for some larger good we cannot see, for people with whom we find it difficult to identify. We compare ourselves favorable against many who seem less attuned to your purposes than we, forgetting that our true standard is Christ Jesus. We ask you to take from us all the bitterness, envy, and anger that stands in the way of your reign. May all we ask of you be for the common good of all your children. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri (Instrumental)

Old Testament Lesson – Psalm 1 (**Liturgist**)

Hymn of Praise (Recorded) – "Sing Joyful Praise" by Mary Lynn Lightfoot, performed by the First UCC Choir

Children's Sermon

(Children and Teachers leave for Sunday School)

Epistle Lesson – James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a (**Liturgist**)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory - NCH 614 is a Spanish hymn entitled "Go Forth, O People of God" and closes with "nature bursts into new flowering, all creation is reborn."

Gospel Lesson – Mark 9:30-37 (**Pastor**)

Sermon

Closing Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 253 "With music by George F. Handel, "Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One" closes with "Endless is the victory you over death have won."

Benediction

Postlude