

Annual Gathering and Meeting
Closing Worship

Prelude: "Wondrous Love" (Flute and Piano) Arr: by Purifoy

One: The Grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you

*Hymn: "O for a World" (NCH # 575)

*Call to Worship:

One: We gather to worship together,

All: Different people, different lives, different histories,

One: Yet all children of the same Parent,

All: Created lovingly by the Source of all life!

One: We gather to reconnect with one another,

All: Different people, different lives, different histories,

One: We all live, laugh, cry and love differently,

All: Yet we are all connected to each other in faith.

One: We are all disciples of one Teacher.

All: Jesus, the Word made flesh, dwelling among us.

One: We gather with different joys and sorrows, different hopes and fears....

All: Different people, different lives, different histories,

One: Yet one people with one God, one faith, one baptism.

All: Let us open ourselves to the presence of God at work in us, among us, and through us.

*Call to confession:

One: We are told what our God requires of us: Do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. Let us confess our lack of justice, love, and kindness to our neighbors and to all people.

***Prayer of confession:**

All: Creator God, you made us to be neighbors, members of one family blessed with great diversity. You created us to be helpers and friends to one another, entrusting to us your justice and your joy. Yet we have denied justice and joy to many, creating worlds of poverty, pain, lost opportunities, and absence of hope. In so many ways, we break each other's hearts. Still, you do not reject us. We ask your forgiveness and pray to be transformed. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Know that in God's loving embrace, we are forgiven. Amen.

Prayer of the Day:

All: Most loving God, fill us with your grace and is able to make all things new. Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that we may share your justice, love and kindness with all your people everywhere. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior, who lives in unity with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music: "Make Me A Channel of Your Peace" Prayer of St. Francis
By Sebastian Temple, Arr. By Mark Barnard

First Reading: Genesis 11:1-9

*Gospel Reading: John 17: 20-26

Sermon: "It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time."

*Hymn: "Let Justice Flow like Streams" (NCH # 588)

Installation of Elected Conference Officers (Book of Worship: Affirmation of Ministry)

*UCC Statement of Faith

Prayers of the People:

One: Let us pray

All: Hear us, O God

Offering

Leader: Beloved, the Gospel of Matthew reminds us that in the eyes of Jesus, “whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Some days it is hard to see past the noise and confusion of our own lives to find the least among us. Other days it is even harder to know our own selves, and ever harder to know our brothers and sisters. One thing that we can know without a doubt is that whether we are gathered, or scattered, we are all God’s beloved children. We are all called to love and care for each other. To that end, we share with each other our time, talent, and treasures not in the hopes that we will be rewarded, but in knowledge that it will bring us everlasting joy.

Offertory

Prayer of Blessing for the Offering:

One: Let Us Pray:

All: Lord, as we approach the end of our time here together, we thank you for the love and mercy that you have shown each of us. Many are the days. For some the days are long and unforgiving, and for others they are all too short, but you are an abundant God and your love and mercy never ceases. You carry all of us forward each and every day, and for that we give thanks.

Today Lord, we freely give to you the gifts of our time, talents, and treasures. Take them we ask, multiply them, and scatter them to the

four corners of the earth, that wherever the least among us are gathered these treasures might find them, and be a blessing to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We ask all this in your holy name. Amen.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Leader:

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on the same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

All: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

Leader: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

*Communion Prayer:

Pastor: God be with you

People: And also with you

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them to God

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise

*Prayer of Our Savior: (Traditional using debts/debtors)

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Anthem: "People Need the Lord"

by Greg Nelson and Phill McHugh Arr: Lloyd Larson

*Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Let Us Pray Together: **Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gifts of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your justice and love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

*Hymn: "Lead On Eternal Sovereign" (NCH # 573)

*Commissioning

*Benediction

Postlude: "Slane" (Flute and Piano) Arr: by Purifoy

*Please Stand As Your are Able.